



Cwmbran Community Council  
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân

**Cwmbran Community Council  
Annual Report 2021/2022**



The Report describes how Cwmbran Community Council is contributing to the wellbeing of its area.

(Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)





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## **Contents Page**

- About this 2021/22 Annual Report

### **PART 1**

- Members
- Committees & Leadership
- Contacting the Council
- Financial Information
- Audit

### **PART 2**

- Foreword
- About Cwmbran Community Council
- Our Contribution to Local Well-being
- “Outcomes & Indicators”
- Our 5 Ways of Working: A Summary of our Achievements
  - Appendix 1 Our Objectives & Targets 2022/23
  - Appendix 2 Statement of Well-being
  - Appendix 3 Our Budget Setting Cycle

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## **About this Annual Report**

An annual report is required for the 2021-2022 financial year. It is due for publication as soon as practicable after 1 April 2022. Reports will be required annually thereafter.

This Annual Report is in two parts.

Part 1 deals with basic information about the Council, its structure and finances.

Part 2 showcases the work of the Council during the year, reflects on the past year's activity and looks ahead to the coming year.

The Council is subject to the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and is required to produce a report on how it is contributing to the wellbeing of its area. This Annual Report meets that requirement.

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## PART 1

### Members

[Membership and contact details for Members \(31 March 2022\)](#) (pdf)

A vacancy existed at year end due to the death of Councillor M Johnston (Two Locks Ward)

(This information will also be updated on our [website](#) as changes occur)

### Committees and Leadership

Decisions are made by the Full Council. The Council receives recommendations from committees. Details of the [committee structure](#) are published to our website.

The Council was chaired in 2021/22 by Councillor SJ Brooks KSS, JP.  
Councillor LG Johnston was the Vice-Chairman

The Leader of the Council in 2021/22 was Councillor KK Manneh Esq., JP, MA  
The Deputy Leader was Councillor SWJ Ashley

### Contacting the Council

The Clerk to the Council was [David Collins](#).

The position of Clerk became vacant in April 2022.  
The role was then undertaken by [Clare Facey](#) pending the appointment of a permanent replacement.

The Council's main telephone number is 01633 849070.

The Council can also be contacted on 07478 206358.

The Council can also be contacted at via [cwmbrancc@cwmbbran.gov.uk](mailto:cwmbrancc@cwmbbran.gov.uk)

### Financial Information

Cwmbran Community Council set its Precept for 2021/22 at £650,425.(13432 = Band D £48.42)

The Council retains its funds in a number of institutions:

Unity Trust Bank: on 31 January 2022 the balance on this account was £101,255.29.

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Monmouthshire Building Society: on 31 January 2022 the balance on this account was £1,287,949.58.

Co-operative Bank: on 31 January 2022 the balance on this account was £170,485.57.

Income and expenditure for 2021/22 will be recorded in the Annual Return, which is to be approved by 30 June 2022. Details will be available from the Clerk.

The [certified-annual-return](#) for 2020/21 has been published and includes financial information for the year ended 31 March 2021.

General and Earmarked Reserves are identified in the Council's Statements of Accounts produced at year end. These will be available from the Clerk.

This is how the Council will spend and raise its money in 2022/23

| Summary |   |             |
|---------|---|-------------|
| A       | ELECTIONS   | 10,000      |
| B       | MEMBERS EXPENSES                                    | 12,250.00   |
| C       | STAFFING  | 288,075.00  |
| G       | ACCOMMODATION                                       | 45,750.00   |
| H       | OFFICE EXPENSES                                     | 46,200.00   |
| I       | POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE                          | 72,000.00   |
| K       | GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS                   | 20,000.00   |
| L       | EVENTS COMMITTEE                                    | 110,250.00  |
| M       | COMMUNITY TASK FORCE SCHEME                         | 9,150.00    |
| N       | ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING              | 27,200.00   |
| O       | CWMBRAN CENTRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE                     | 64,000.00   |
| P       | TWINNING ACTIVITIES                                 | 0.00        |
| R       | BANK INTEREST                                       | -200.00     |
| V       | VAT refund or payment (VAT on income & expenditure) | -3,000.00   |
|         | Grand Totals  | 701 ,675.00 |
|         | Less Funding from Reserves                          | -100,000    |
|         | Precept Funding                                     | 601,675     |

*What do you think should be our spending priorities as we plan for the future?*

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## Audit

The Council's accounts for 2021/22 will be the subject of a final internal audit and external audit. The outcome of each audit will be published to our [website](#) during 2022/23.

An [interim internal audit](#) for 2021/22 was undertaken in February 2022.

Details of previous years accounts and audits have been [published](#).

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## **PART 2**

### **Foreword**

The past year has been difficult for us all.

Although we saw a gradual relaxation of the restrictions arising from coronavirus, the impact of the pandemic continued to dominate our lives.

The end of the year also saw the development of the Ukrainian crisis following the Russian invasion, which threw up new problems and worries for everybody as the impact on key resources became more evident.

This report describes some of the ways in which the Council responded to these pressures, introducing new ways of working, supporting & sustaining communities through unprecedented global challenges.

The report also describes how the Council continued to exercise its usual functions and meet its statutory obligations.

We now want to hear your views about how we have performed and the objectives we have set.

Have we done all we can?

Would you like us to consider other ways of contributing to local Well-being?

Please let us know. You can reach us via social media or by email at [cwmbrancc@cwmbbran.gov.uk](mailto:cwmbrancc@cwmbbran.gov.uk)

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## About This 2021 Report

Torfaen Public Services Board (PSB) has published a [Well-being Plan for Torfaen](#) (2018 to 2023). It sets out how public services will work together to improve local well-being. The PSB reports [annually](#) against this Plan.

Cwmbran Community Council's Annual Report indicates the progress **we** have made towards these objectives. It also records our wider achievements and ways of working. The Council has produced an Annual Report for many years. Previous reports can be viewed at [www.cwmbran.gov.uk](http://www.cwmbran.gov.uk).

In recent years, Residents' Handbooks have also documented our progress towards delivering Well-being in Cwmbran. We have also used the Handbook to consult on priorities.

Here are our current objectives, which provide a framework for our activities:

*A Prosperous Cwmbran.*

*A Healthier Cwmbran.*

*A Cwmbran of Cohesive Communities*

*A Globally Responsive Cwmbran*

*A Resilient Cwmbran.*

*A More Equal Cwmbran*

*A Cwmbran of Vibrant Culture & Thriving  
Welsh Language*

*A "Competent" Cwmbran*

These goals continue to inform our work. We have assessed the progress made this year towards meeting these objectives in this report.

This Report covers the financial year 2021//2022. The Report, including the Statement of Well-Being, was approved by Cwmbran Community Council on 18 May 2022.

We encourage views from the public about our services.

*Have you used our Gardening & Decorating Service?*

*What do you think about our spending priorities?*

*Have you visited our website or social media pages?*

*Have you received a grant from the Council or attended one of our events?*

*How well do we contribute to the Well-being goals referred to in this report?*

We welcome your views on how our services are provided.

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## About Cwmbran

Cwmbran Community Council serves the community of Cwmbran in the south-eastern corner of Wales. Within Torfaen, it occupies the valleys and hills along the Afan Llwyd river.

Cwmbran was created as a New Town in 1949, when its existing villages were developed into a cohesive and vibrant community. Today, Cwmbran is essentially urban in character but with areas of rural and unspoilt charm. There are around 30,000 electors in Cwmbran.

Cwmbran Community Council is one of the largest Community (town) Councils in Wales. It provides grass roots services to all parts of a diverse and growing community. The Council's strategic direction is set by elected Councillors (Members) who oversee a team of staff responsible for delivering services on a day-to-day basis.

Details of the elected members and how to contact them are available at [www.cwmbran.gov.uk](http://www.cwmbran.gov.uk). Notices of meetings, agendas, reports and minutes can also be viewed here, along with governance documents and other Council information.

The Council derives most of its funds from its precept. That is an amount which is added to Council Tax bills to fund the Council's estimated expenditure. For the financial year 2020/21 the Council estimated that it needed to spend £650,425.

Further information about the Council's finances, including its annual accounts, can be seen at [www.cwmbran.gov.uk](http://www.cwmbran.gov.uk).

The Council also has a lively social media presence, details of which are shown on the final page of this report.

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## **Our Contribution to Local Well-being**

The following objectives are set by the Torfaen Public Services Board (PSB).

- 1. To develop a functional, connected network of natural areas that support the current and future well-being needs of local populations.*
- 2. To develop adaption & mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change.*
- 3. To provide children & young people with the best possible start in life.*
- 4. To support healthy lifestyles and enable people to age well.*
- 5. To tackle the inter-generational patterns of poverty and develop economic resilience.*
- 6. To improve local skills through work-force planning, training, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities.*
- 7. To create safe, confident communities and promote community cohesion.*

Here are some examples of how we contributed to these local “Well-being” objectives, working with others to benefit future generations. The examples also show links to our own goals.

1. We sit on the Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Local Nature Partnership which brings communities together to explore, discover and share nature on their doorstep, providing advice and support for action to benefit local wildlife. We also helped develop a strategic vision for the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal and will continue to sit on the Mynydd Maen Wind Farm Community Liaison Group.  
“A RESILIENT CWMBRAN”
2. We have kept a close eye on proposals to encourage Active Travel and contributed to the refurbishment of a local flower gardens enjoyed by the public. We allocated funds to help control speeding on key routes.  
“A HEALTHIER CWMBRAN”
3. We recycle our waste, including green waste.  
“A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE CWMBRAN”
4. Councillor Stephen Brooks of Cwmbran Community Council represented town & community councils on the PSB.  
“A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE CWMBRAN”.

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5. We distributed play resources to local families and supported play provision across Cwmbran, encouraging play and learning. This helped children play freely but safely at a time when play was integral to a child's mental health and well-being. We encouraged outdoor play and the continuation of staffed play provision for vulnerable children.  
"A HEALTHIER CWMBRAN"
6. We worked with agencies to establish a Community Alcohol Partnership – a multi-agency group that could help reduce under-age drinking and related anti-social behaviour and support educational and diversionary activity  
"A HEALTHIER CWMBRAN"
7. We continued to support [Cwmbran Centre for Young People](#), [Llantarnam Grange Art Centre](#) and the [Congress Theatre](#)  
"A CWMBRAN OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE."
8. Despite the impact of Covid-19 we continued to provide our gardening and decorating service, which is discounted for the elderly and infirm. Following strict safety guidelines, this helped raise morale and lift the spirits of many elderly residents.  
"A HEALTHIER CWMBRAN"
9. By releasing vital funds, we helped relieve the impact of Covid-19 related poverty and hardship in partnership with others, for example, agencies providing support by way of food.  
"A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE CWMBRAN".
10. We encouraged economic resilience by prompt payment to suppliers and paying staff the Living Wage.  
"A PROSPEROUS CWMBRAN"
11. Partnerships working with Torfaen Voluntary Alliance helped support community-based organisations, groups and social enterprise development in Torfaen. Our Grants to Voluntary Organisations also helped sustain third sector groups who have been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.  
"A CWMBRAN OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES"
12. Our "virtual" Big Event enjoyed terrific support from the community. Our Christmas Trees and lights once again helped welcome any visitors. We supported the community through socially distanced Remembrance events and ensured that the cultural life of our communities remained vibrant during this difficult year, commemorating national milestones such as Merchant Navy Day, VE Day and Dydd Owain Glyndŵr.

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“A CWMBRAN OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES”

13. Regular dialogue with community safety partners helped maintain a Safer Cwmbran. Regular updates between the Council and the local Inspector make an important contribution to this.

“A CWMBRAN OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES”

14. We encouraged volunteering in the community in many ways, such as through our support for the use of volunteers at local Playschemes, which we help to fund. National Play Day occurs in the middle of the Playschemes.

“A HEALTHIER CWMBRAN”

15. We allocated funds to help local agencies supporting those coming to Cwmbran from Ukraine and other areas of conflict.

“A CWMBRAN OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES”

*And there's more. Here are some routine examples....*

- Our funds helped sustain the Congress Theatre and Torfaen Museum, developing a Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language.
- We continued to champion A More Equal Cwmbran, raising the rainbow flag to help celebrate PrideCymru and promoting zero tolerance towards racism.
- Our social media pages promoted many of the above initiatives and shared key messages to support physical, financial and well-being needs during lockdown. Our digital platforms proved critical to our success in engaging with our community, encouraging interaction, participation in on-line events and dialogue. We may hold more events “on-line” in the future.
- Amidst the pandemic, the “normal life” of the Council carried on. Accounts were approved, staff were trained and bills were paid.
- Council Meetings also took place remotely and in person. Services also continued on-line. You can participate in these meetings. Contact us to learn more.
- Sustainable, digital solutions were central to our communications strategy. Our website was improved as we championed new ways of meeting the community.
- Our staff kept safe by working from home as much as possible, supporting the Council and the community. They kept up with training and other changes which affect our work. We kept our building and facilities safe & secure. Safety measures helped protect staff and visitors when they needed to access the building.

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- We commemorated the passing of HRH Prince Phillip and joined with the nation in celebrating his life of service.

The newly established Gwent PSB has been working to write a Wellbeing Assessment for the wider region. The first draft of the assessment has now been completed. We worked with our partners to publicise and inform this consultation.

Please see below link which will take you to the assessment. Comments were due by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

<https://www.gwentpsb.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Draft-Gwent-Well-being-Assessment-Dec-2021.pdf>

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## Outcomes & Indicators

Here are some figures and reflections which indicate our success this year.

Our Gardening and Decorating service will continue to serve the community, we hope for many years.

Donations to local foodbanks have been in response to wider pressures on the community and could continue in future years.

Our relationship with the voluntary sector is ongoing as is our commitment to digital communications and using social media to engage the public.

We hope that our community safety partners continue their long-standing commitment to attend Council meetings.

Our activities and events to encourage children and young people are established features of the Council's work over many years.



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## **The Bits That Didn't Go Well?**

The last few years have seen tremendous pressures for all in our community. We have worked hard to sustain our services during these difficult times and support those working in our communities.

Some of our services inevitably experienced a “drop off” in the last few years as restrictions around coronavirus limited our ability to meet customer needs. Many of our events were cancelled, which we know was a disappointment to many, especially local children. Our Gardening & Decorating “Task Force” also had to operate at reduced capacity to keep safe. We hope that “normal service” can be resumed as soon as possible.

We would also like to encourage more people to engage with the Council, come to meetings and give us their views. In common with other Councils, we are sure that these are areas where we can improve.

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## Our 5 Ways of Working: A Summary of our Achievements

We believe in.....

So we did this.....

The Long Term: the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs

We have drawn upon the Local Places for Nature project to encourage a diverse wildlife population at our offices... We also accepted the first trees in Cwmbran as part of the #MyTreeOurForest project.

We have kept the condition of our buildings under scrutiny, ensuring the site remains safe during the coronavirus crisis.

We examined our staffing and financial arrangements with a view to long term pressures, making financial decisions now, to enable future generations to thrive.

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, we protected the “Cwmbran Big Event” and aim to secure its long-term future. We also protected the future of our other community events through on-line working.

Prevention: how acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

Our award-winning Task Force delivered a gardening & decorating service in the community, helping vulnerable residents retain their independence.

Our programme of grants to voluntary organisations helped sustain many vital community-run services. We helped local Foodbanks meet local needs.

We reviewed reports from our auditors and regulators to help bring about continuous improvement. New reporting procedures approved will give our work better focus.

Integration: considering how public bodies' well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

For several years now, the Council has aligned its activities and objectives with wider Well-being goals. We enjoy close relationships with our partners across Torfaen in delivering these goals. We continued to work towards these goals. We kept abreast of wider public sector developments through our membership of bodies such as One Voice Wales, the umbrella organisation for town & community councils in Wales.

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Collaboration: acting in collaboration with any other person that could help the Council meet its well-being objectives.

We enjoy excellent relationships with key partners to deliver services, with support from local businesses, uniformed organisations and churches. We are especially proud of our relationships with local schools.

Involvement: the importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the Council serves.

Councillor SJ Brooks of Cwmbran Community Council represented town & community councils on the PSB, helping to determine priorities and actions.

Our diverse programme of annual events helped build cohesive and resilient communities.

We encourage discussion about Council services via our lively social media pages.

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## Appendix 1

### Objectives & Targets 2022/23

#### **Objectives**

The Council has adopted the following principles, as its long-term objectives.

To contribute towards the delivery of:

- A Prosperous Cwmbran.
- A Resilient Cwmbran.
- A Healthier Cwmbran.
- A More Equal Cwmbran.
- A Cwmbran of Cohesive Communities.
- A Cwmbran of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language.
- A Globally Responsive Cwmbran.
- A Competent Council.

These objectives provide a framework for the delivery of specific projects, services and programme of events during the year. They guide spending decisions.

The Council will continue to work towards these goals during the coming year and the PSB objectives, which reflect these wider aims.

#### **Targets**

Here are some targets to guide our work. We will measure success and record our achievements in future reports.

- A Prosperous Cwmbran

We will continue to support key agencies who provide advice and opportunities to stimulate economic activity.

We will aim to provide regeneration opportunities.

- A Resilient Cwmbran.

We will work with other agencies to maintain and enhance natural environments with healthy ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to change.

- A Healthier Cwmbran.

We will support play provision and healthy choices.

We will ensure that our Gardening & Decorating “Task Force” continues to uphold well-being and contributes to the quality of life.

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- A More Equal Cwmbran.

We will promote equality of opportunity, celebrate diversity and encourage a fairer society.

- A Cwmbran of Cohesive Communities.

Our programme of events will provide the space for communities to come together. We will continue to examine the scope to stage events on-line.

We will help sustain the voluntary sector. We will work with agencies who support those coming to Cwmbran from areas of conflict.

Our dialogue with community safety partners will help maintain safe, confident communities.

- A Cwmbran of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language.

We will support the arts and embrace Welsh culture.

- A Globally Responsive Cwmbran.

We will continue to work with other agencies to help mitigate the impact of climate change and promote sustainability.

- A Competent Council.

We aspire to become a Competent Council.

We will respond to legislative changes to continue to ensure that we meet our statutory obligations. We will prepare an Annual Report and training plans for staff and Councillors.

The Council will continue to embrace principles of Sustainable Development based upon Long Term Planning, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration and Involvement to deliver these goals.

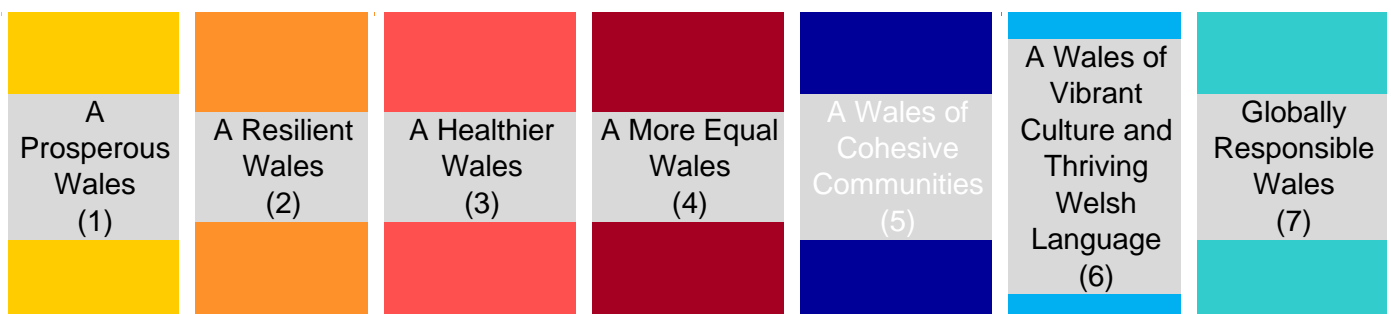
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## Statement of Well-being: Cwmbran Community Council

This Well-Being Statement sets out the Council's commitment to the principle of sustainable development to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, 'the Act', defines sustainable development as the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals. In this regard the Council recognises the role it has to play. Therefore, it will promote sustainable development in how it goes about meeting its duty under the Act and when working for and with the communities that make up its area.

The Act puts in place seven well-being goals. These well-being goals are indivisible from each other and explain what is meant by the well-being of Wales. The Council embraces these well-being goals and will place them at the heart of its forward planning and decision-making arrangements to improve the general quality of life (well-being) within its administrative area. The Act provides a more detailed definition for each of the seven well-being goals. However, for the purposes of this statement the seven goals are:



When applying these well-being goals to the functions, activities and services provided by the Council; the Act requires the Council to think more about the long term, to work better with people and communities and also other public bodies, to look to prevent problems and to take a more joined up approach.

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The Council will go about this by making the following commitments:

## **COMMITMENTS**

- Look to the long term so that its actions or lack of action does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Taking an integrated approach to applying the seven well-being goals when deciding upon priorities.
- Involving the diversity of the population in the decisions affecting them, when and where it is applicable to do so.
- Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.
- Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.
- Take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives in the local well-being plan that has affect in its area. In this regard the Council will consider and review the local objectives contained in the plan alongside its own objectives for the year ahead.
- Form its own judgement of what steps it would be reasonable for it to take towards meeting the local objectives in its area, on the basis of its own knowledge and consideration of the circumstances and characteristics of its area.
- Report annually detailing the progress it has made in meeting Well-being objectives.
- Supporting Sustainable Development.

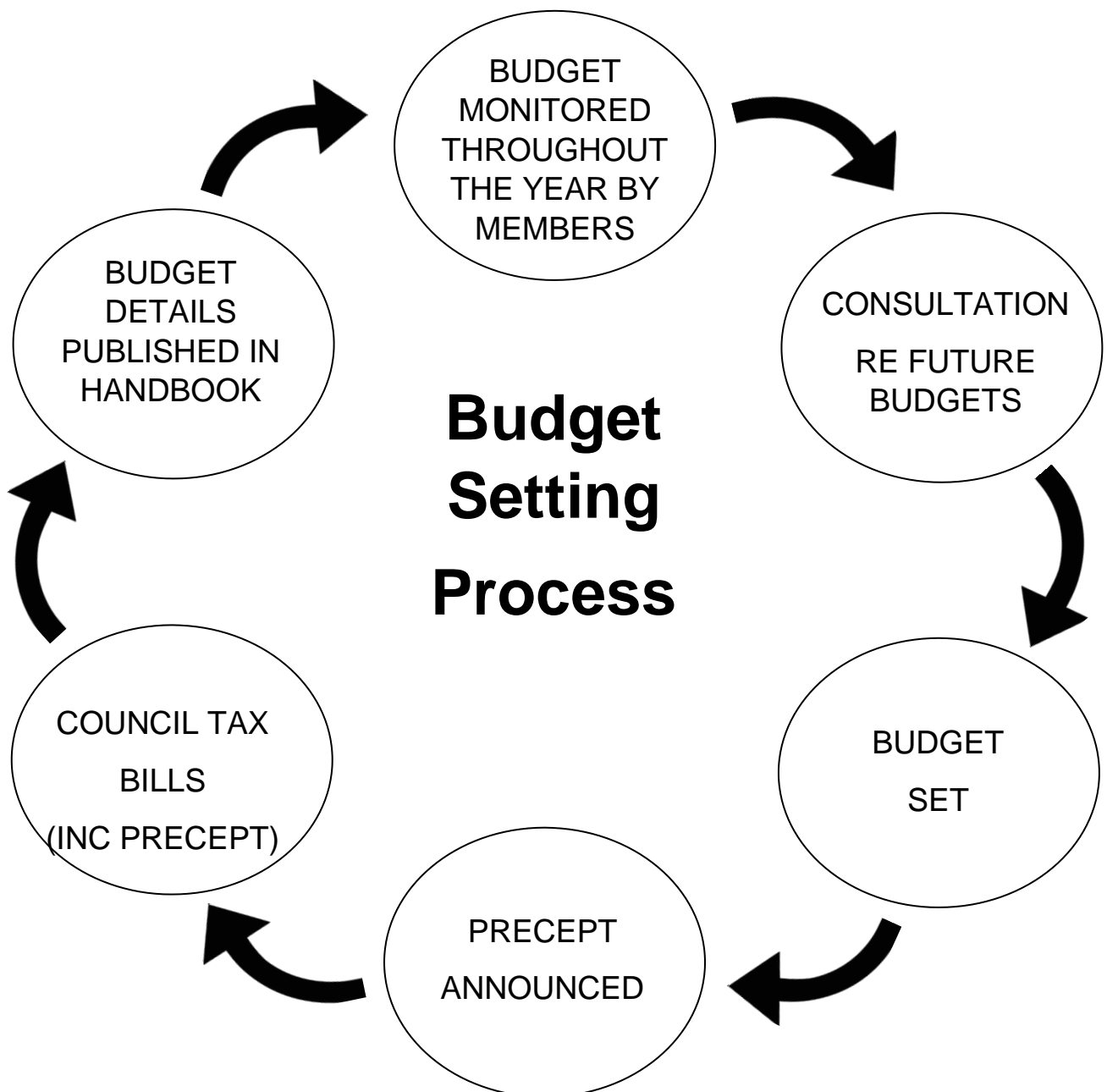
## **ACTIONS**

The Council commits to the following set of actions:

- Publishing this well-being statement and Annual Report on its website.
- Incorporating this well-being statement into its Annual Report, which provides an overall framework to focus the Council's activities, investments and spending priorities.
- Incorporating the well-being goals into its Strategic Planning.
- Continue to extend its influence and reach into the community to help sustain general well-being in the communities that make up its area. It will do this by dedicating resources to promote community development through the Council's work programme.
- To support Sustainable Development in what we do, and who we work with.
- To work with others to bring about Well Being in Cwmbran.

*contact us with any views on the issues in this report via [cwmbrancc@cwmban.gov.uk](mailto:cwmbrancc@cwmban.gov.uk)  
visit our website at [www.cwmban.gov.uk](http://www.cwmban.gov.uk)*

## Our Budget Setting Cycle



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[www.cwmbran.gov.uk](http://www.cwmbran.gov.uk)

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**Dilynwch ni ar Rwydweithiau Cymdeithasol!**



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