



cwmbran community council  
cyngor cymuned cwmbrân

# Cwmbran Community Council Annual Report 2018

**Armed Forces Day**  
**Diwrnod y Lluedd Arfog**



**Wednesday 27 June 2018 at 10:00am**  
The Council House, Ventnor Road,  
Cwmbran

**Dydd Mercher 27 Mehefin 2018 am 10:00yb**

Cwmbran Community Council will host a short ceremony to commemorate Armed Forces Day

**Cwmbran Community Council**  
**Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân**

Do you know someone, or a group, who deserve recognition for what they do / have achieved / overcome?

Why not nominate them for a Cwmbran Community Council Award in 2017?



This is a chance to reward and recognise the 'Unsung hero' of your community.

The closing date for applications is  
**Friday 10 November 2017**

Please contact Cwmbran Community Council and we will be pleased to discuss this with you.

**Remembrance Sunday**  
**Sul y Cofio**

**November 12 Tachwedd 2017**




A Parade will leave St Gabriel's Church (Old Cwmbran) at 10.25 am ending at Cwmbran Park for an Act of Remembrance at 11.00 am.

**Bydd Gorymdaith yn gadael Eglwys Sant Gabriel (Hen Cwmbrân) am 10.25 ac yn cyrraedd Parc Cwmbrân ar gyfer gweithred o Gofio am 11.00 am.**

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

**Carol Service and Tree Lighting Ceremony**

**Friday 1 December 2017 at 6 pm**

**Cwmbran Community Council**  
**Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân**



"Fit for the Future?"

**Fly the Red Ensign**  
**anner y Lluam Coch**

For Merchant Navy Day 2017  
r gyfer Diwrnod y Llynges Fasnachol 2017



**Cwmbran Community Council**  
**Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân**

"A Celebration of Cwmbran and its Communities"

"Noson i ddathlu Cwmbrân a'u cymunedau"

**Friday 9th March 2018**  
**Dydd Gwener 9fed Fawrth 2018**

Hosted by / Cynnal gan

**2017 Senior Schools Choral Festival**

**Thursday 9 November, 6pm**  
**At Cwmbran High School**

**Cwmbran Community Council**  
**Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân**

**Gŵyl Goraw! Ysgolion Cynradd 2018**  
**Primary Schools Choral Festival 2018**



**Theatr Congress Theatre**

**Dydd Llun 26 Mawrth / Monday 26 March**  
**Dydd Mawrth 27 Mawrth / Tuesday 27 March**  
**Dydd Mercher 28 Mawrth / Wednesday 28 March**

**6:00-8:00pm / 6:00-8:00yh**

**Tocynnau / Tickets: £2**

David Collins, Clerk to the Council / Cleric'r Cyngor  
The Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran, Torfaen, NP44 3JY  
01493 624152 [cwmbrancc@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:cwmbrancc@torfaen.gov.uk)

**Cwmbran Community Council**  
**Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân**

**2018**

**Knauf Insulation Schools Environmental Quiz**



**Thursday 8 February 2018**  
**The Congress Theatre, Cwmbran**  
**6.00 pm**

**1st prize: £100**  
(plus a tour of Knauf Insulation plant)  
**2nd prize: £75**  
**3rd prize: £50**

(All participating schools will receive £25 each)  
All prizes and awards are generously sponsored by Knauf Insulation  
**Schools within the Cwmbran area will be taking part!**

**Cwmbran Community Council**  
**Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân**

**Task Force**



**Information**

For more information please contact:  
Cwmbran Community Council,  
The Council House,





# CONTENTS PAGE

- Introduction
- About this report
- About Cwmbran Community Council
- Our Contribution to Well-being

## ***Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 1***

*To Develop a functional, connected network of natural areas that support the current and future well-being needs of local populations.*

## ***Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 2***

*To develop adaption and mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change.*

## ***Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 3***

*To provide children and young people with the best possible start in life.*

## ***Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 4***

*To prevent chronic health conditions through supporting healthy lifestyles and enabling people to age well.*

## ***Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 5***

*To tackle the inter-generational patterns of poverty and develop economic resilience.*

## ***Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 6***

*To improve local skills through work-force planning, training, apprenticeships, and volunteering opportunities.*

## ***Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 7***

*To create safe, confident communities and promote community cohesion.*

- Appendix 1 Our Objectives
- Appendix 2 Statement of Well-being
- Appendix 3 Our Budget Setting Cycle
- Appendix 4 Our Year in Pictures 2017/18

# Introduction

*Welcome to this Annual Report.*

*As many residents know, in 2018, we lost our respected Chairman, Councillor Bob Jones.*

*Bob was a great champion of Cwmbran and a respected figure in the community. He was especially keen to encourage and support young people. He is pictured on the cover of this report, promoting our website with his usual enthusiasm.*

*This Report describes the work of Cwmbran Community Council during Bob's year in office. It describes our achievements and looks ahead to the future.*

*I hope that you will enjoy reading about the work of Cwmbran Community Council and the people we serve. The Report describes some of the ways in which we aim to deliver well-being for future generations of Cwmbran residents, with reference to key local priorities.*

*I would like to thank the elected members and officers of the Council for their hard work this year. I would also like to thank the many individuals and organisations who have worked with us to improve the wellbeing of the communities of Cwmbran.*

*The Council's achievements continue to reflect our hard work. Our success in engaging the public and our revised website were recognised by One Voice Wales, the umbrella organisation for town & community councils in Wales. The Council was thrilled to receive recognition for these projects at the One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Awards 2018. This builds on our earlier recognition for our approach to Annual Reporting.*

*Finally, I wish to thank everybody who donated towards Bob's nominated charities during the year, the Alzheimer's Society and Noah's Ark Children's Hospital.*

Councillor PJ Cathcart,

Vice Chairman Cwmbran Community Council, 2017/18

## About This Report

Torfaen Public Services Board published its first [Well-being Plan](#) for Torfaen (2018 to 2023) on 3 May 2018. The Plan sets out how public services will work together to improve well-being across in the short, medium and longer term.

This report describes how the Council has contributed towards the 7 key priorities described in the Plan and our objectives and programmes

The information reflects the five ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people:

- Long term: the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs.
- Prevention: how acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.
- 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.
- Collaboration: acting in collaboration to help meet well-being objectives.
- 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 body serves

The report covers the municipal year of Councillor Jones' year of office as Chairman of the Council, which commenced in May 2017 and ran for 12 months.

This Annual Report, including the Statement of Well-Being, was approved by Cwmbran Community Council at a meeting held on 1 August 2018.

David Collins

Clerk to Cwmbran Community Council

[david@cwmbrian.gov.uk](mailto:david@cwmbrian.gov.uk)

Tel 01633 624154

**Follow Us on Facebook**

Cwmbran Community Council

**Follow Us on Twitter**

@CwmbranCouncil.

**Visit us at**

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

## About Cwmbran Community Council

Cwmbran Community Council serves a population of around 30,000 within Torfaen, in the south eastern corner of South Wales. Torfaen occupies the valleys and hills of Gwent.

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

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 small 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 many governance documents and other information about the Council.

The Council derives almost all of its funds from its precept. That is, an additional amount which is added to Council Tax bills based upon the Council's estimated expenditure. For the financial year 2017/18 the Council estimated that it needed to spend £555,750.

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

This report includes examples of many of the Council's services which are delivered to all age groups in a variety of forms. From activities aimed at primary schools to our gardening & decorating service which offers concessions for the elderly. The Report describes how Cwmbran Community Council delivers services which contribute to the well-being of Cwmbran and its communities.

*The Council would encourage views from the public about its services. Have you used our Task Force? What do you think about our spending priorities?*

*Have you looked at our website or social media pages?*

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

*We would very much welcome your views on how these services are provided.*

David Collins  
Clerk to Cwmbran Community Council  
[david@cwmbran.gov.uk](mailto:david@cwmbran.gov.uk)  
Tel 01633 624154

# **Our Contributions to Well-being:**

## ***Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 1***

*To Develop a functional, connected network of natural areas that support the current and future well-being needs of local populations.*

### ***What have we done?***

*We have helped our partners at Blaen Bran Community Woodland with tree planting & landscaping and supported wildflower planting schemes at Northville. Our members have visited the area to see the works undertaken.*

*We have installed wildflower planting at our Council offices, helping to encourage diversity.*

*We have helped shape proposals to deliver Active Travel arrangements.*

### ***Looking Ahead in 2018/19***

*Our Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee will continue to consider planning applications affecting the town and make observations to the Local Planning Authority. Meetings take place in public at our offices on a six weekly basis. Agendas & Minutes can be viewed on-line.*

*We will ensure that we understand key planning policies, such as the Local Development Plan and their impact on our community.*

*We will respond to any Pre-Application Consultation from developers.*

*The committee will also help protect our local footpath network, considering proposals to alter public footpaths. We will work with partners to support active travel networks and promote outdoor activity.*

*We will look at other opportunities to encourage and protect our natural environment.*

*We will continue our representation on key environmental groups, such as the Torfaen Environmental Trust (1 member), South Sebastopol Environment Steering Group (2 members) and Greenmeadow Community Farm (2 members), bringing our understanding of local conditions to the work of these organisations.*





## **Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 2**

*To develop adaption and mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change.*

### **What have we done?**

*We have purchased cleaner, greener equipment for use by our Task Force. This helps our staff deliver a safer, more environmentally friendly service.*

### **Looking Ahead in 2018/19**

*Responding to climate change underpins all of our well-being objectives. Developing healthy, connected network of natural areas can help us locally to be ready to respond to climate change. We will continue to keep our services under review to adapt to and mitigate the impact of climate change, working with partners across Wales to identify and implement Best Practice.*

*The Council will also continue to keep its own house in order, implementing improved patterns of waste collection and encouraging digital forms of communication, such as our Residents Handbooks, produced digitally in 2018 and available on line. Hard copies were distributed via local schools to minimise costs and use of resources.*





### **Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 3**

*To provide children and young people with the best possible start in life.*

#### **What have we done?**

*We sustain a variety of activities to provide local play opportunities and support for young people.*

*We provide activities to stimulate and encourage young people, working closely with local schools.*

#### **Looking Ahead in 2018/19**

*The Council will continue its core funding of Cwmbran Centre for Young People (CCYP), a registered charity which works with vulnerable youths and provides a resource base for groups working with young people and associated community & voluntary services. Core funding in the current year is £54,100. The Council is also represented on the Management Committee by 5 elected members. The Council's support is vital in helping to provide young people with the support & assistance to achieve their goals.*

*Our support for play opportunities helps deliver a balanced programme of stimulating summer play across Cwmbran. Core funding this year will be £60,000. We will monitor the arrangement carefully to ensure the quality of local play provision.*

*Our award winning programme of events provides stimulating opportunities for children and young people of all ages. This especially includes opportunities to showcase local performing arts talents. We will review the look and feel of these events to ensure that they retain their vitality and modern appeal.*

*We will encourage youth engagement so that our services and policies meet the needs of children & young people and work with partners where possible to reduce adverse childhood experiences. We will benchmark against the work of other local councils to study effective ideas for youth engagement.*

**[Torfaen Play Service](#)** @torfaenplayserv

*A big thank you to the Community Councils who are funding the delivery of summer playschemes in Torfaen. @CwmbranCouncil Llanyrafon & Croesyceiliog Community Council, Pontypool Community Council Henllys Community Council & Blaenavon Town Council.*

*Thanks*



**1 Retweet**

**8 Likes**

#### **Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 4**

*To prevent chronic health conditions through supporting healthy lifestyles and enabling people to age well.*

#### **What have we done?**

*We have installed a defibrillator at our offices; our gardening & decorating service is especially appreciated by the elderly.*

#### **Looking Ahead in 2018/19**

*We have invested in the service provided by our Task Force, which provides a vital gardening and decorating service to the elderly. Our new cleaner, greener equipment and van obtained will help us to significantly improve the service this year. We have kept our fees static for the current year, with 50% discount available to the elderly, disabled and infirm, helping to promote independent living. We will monitor our performance closely to study the results.*

*We will continue our ambitions to become a Dementia Friendly Council – a number of our Members have already undertaken training.*

*We will encourage grant applications from all sections of the voluntary community, continuing our proud record of supporting organisations who meet the needs of the elderly.*

*We will make particular provision to commemorate the centenary of World War One, helping to preserve the dignity of local veterans and recognise the contribution of so many local organisations to conflicts down the years.*



## **Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 5**

*To tackle the inter-generational patterns of poverty and develop economic resilience.*

### **What have we done?**

*Our new Residents Handbook includes helpful information if you need financial advice or support. We hope you find it helpful.*

### **Looking Ahead in 2018/19**

In 2018/19 we will provide £4,300 worth of core funding to Citizens Advice Bureau.

This support contributes to the funding of an Initial Advice service which when combined with other funding will allow Citizens Advice to help over 1,000 people from the Community Council area with over 1,400 separate issues, and enabling residents to realise £1m in unclaimed welfare benefits, £335,000 of debt to be written off and a further £70,000 to be rescheduled.

Cwmbran residents mainly seek help with welfare benefits issues (58%), about debts (21%), family and relationship issues (9%), and employment law matters (6%).

Nearly half of Cwmbran residents seeking help have a disability or long term health condition. The most common benefits issue is Personal Independence Payments and the most common debt issue is Council Tax Arrears.

Our support for Cwmbran Centre for Young People (CCYP) helps deliver a Parenting group that caters for vulnerable families and young lone parents. CCYP provides daily meals to Centre users and a twice weekly Food Bank 'drop in' scheme' for young people and anyone within the wider community who is in need. Emergency food parcels are available daily through excess from the Food bank scheme and relationships we have with local supermarkets/stores of surplus stock donations. The Centre receives and requests donations from all over Cwmbran and distributes these donations to those in need - these items can be anything from essential items, clothing, furniture, homeware etc. The Centre runs an Independent Living Project which provides awareness, education, practical support/experiences and guidance to anyone who is struggling or needs support to live independently. The Centre provides 'all year' opportunities for social and community activities to tackle isolation and poverty.



## Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 6

To improve local skills through work-force planning, training, apprenticeships, and volunteering opportunities.

### What have we done?

Our core funding to CCYP helps them provide training opportunities.

Our premises are regularly used by local training providers.

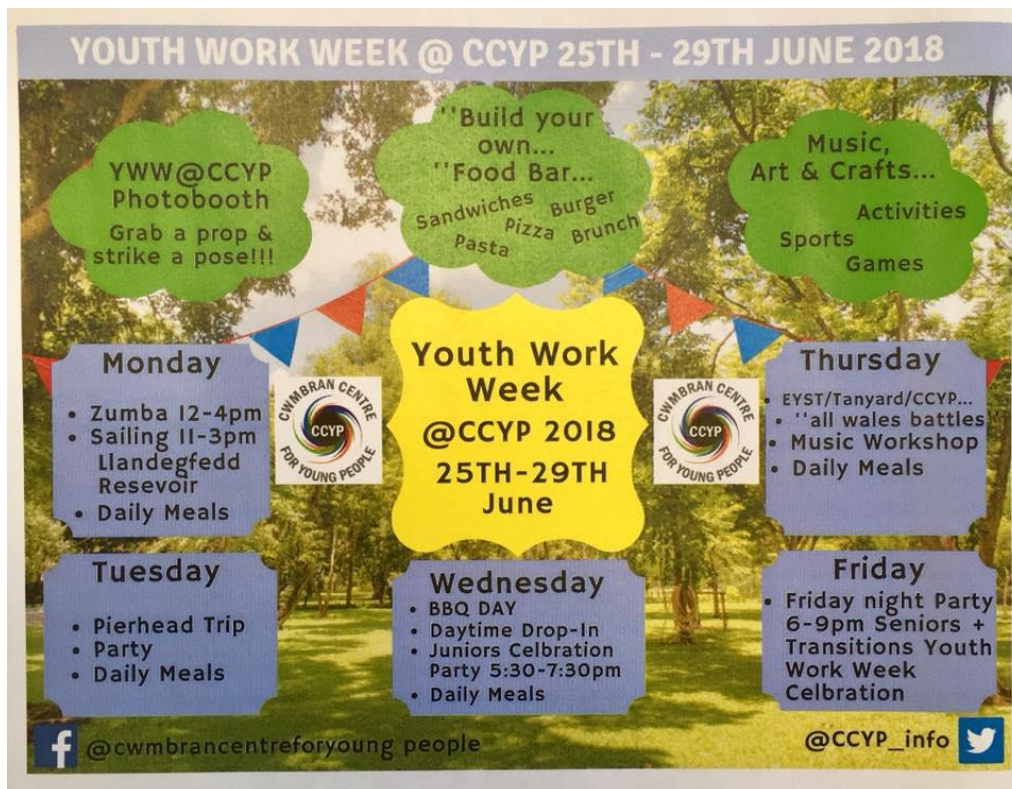
In 2017/18 we awarded grants to voluntary organisations totalling over £7,000 and recognised the achievements of community champions at our annual awards ceremony.

### Looking Ahead in 2018/19

Our support for CCYP (see above) will allow them to provide a range of educational and training opportunities.

Outcomes include skills development, allocation of training funds, addressing barriers, qualifications and apprenticeship & work experience opportunities.

We will continue to encourage the voluntary sector through our programme of grants to voluntary organisations. By the identification of Earmarked Financial Reserves we will be better placed to respond to the growing demand for support from the voluntary sector. We will keep our criteria for awarding grants under review to ensure that spending brings local benefits.





## **Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being Objective 7**

*To create safe, confident communities and promote community cohesion.*

### **What have we done?**

*We offer grants to community organisations and reward local community champions.*

*We run colourful and entertaining events throughout the year! This has been recognised as Best Practice in terms of public engagement.*

*Our support for Playschemes helps combat ASB and build cohesive communities.*

*We maintain a dialogue with other agencies to help deliver Well-being locally*

### **Looking Ahead in 2018/19**

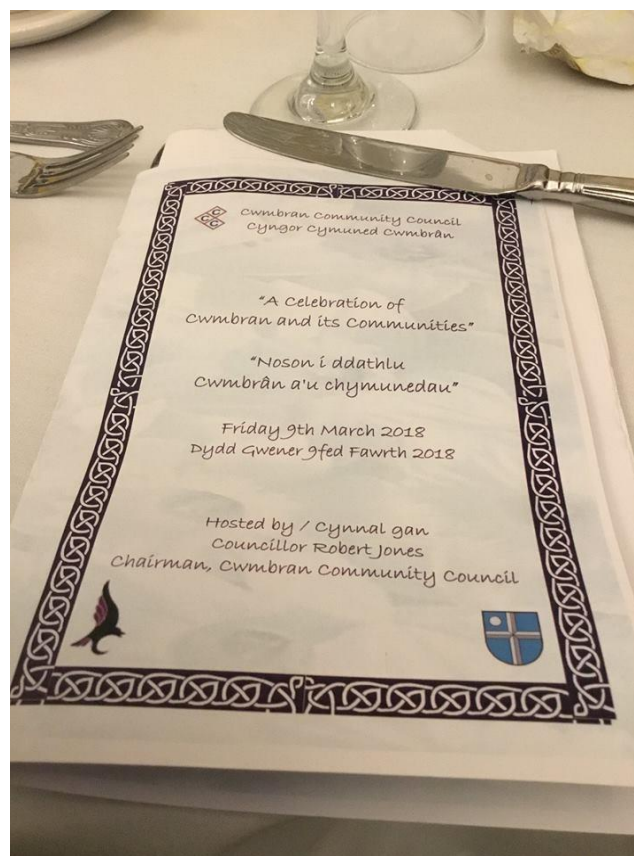
*We will keep our events programme under review and review budgets for all events, to ensure that they continue to engage the community, providing the space for communities to prosper.*

*We will work with partners such as the Police and Fire Service who help keep our open spaces safe and support the work of volunteers. We propose to visit the Police Control Room to improve our understanding of community safety. In June we met the new Police Inspector to discuss his priorities. We look forward to continuing this dialogue.*

*We will look at the condition of our own building to ensure that it best serves the community.*

*We will continue to celebrate the work of community champions and provide opportunities to commemorate national occasions such as Remembrance Sunday, St David's Day and Merchant Navy Day. We will support other local activities which bring people together, such as local celebrations to mark the achievements of Jon Fielding VC.*

*We will also continue to promote the work of town & community councils, highlighting the ways in which we contribute to the delivery of Well-being locally. Opportunities to do this include activities such as the event to raise awareness of the work of town & community councils at Cwmbran Library in July.*



### Our Objectives

The Council has adopted the following principles, as its Council's 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 overarching goals provide a framework for the delivery of specific projects, which are described above.

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

- Long term: the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs.
- Prevention: how acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.
- 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.
- Collaboration: acting in collaboration with any other person that could help the Council meet its well-being objectives.
- 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





## 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.

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.

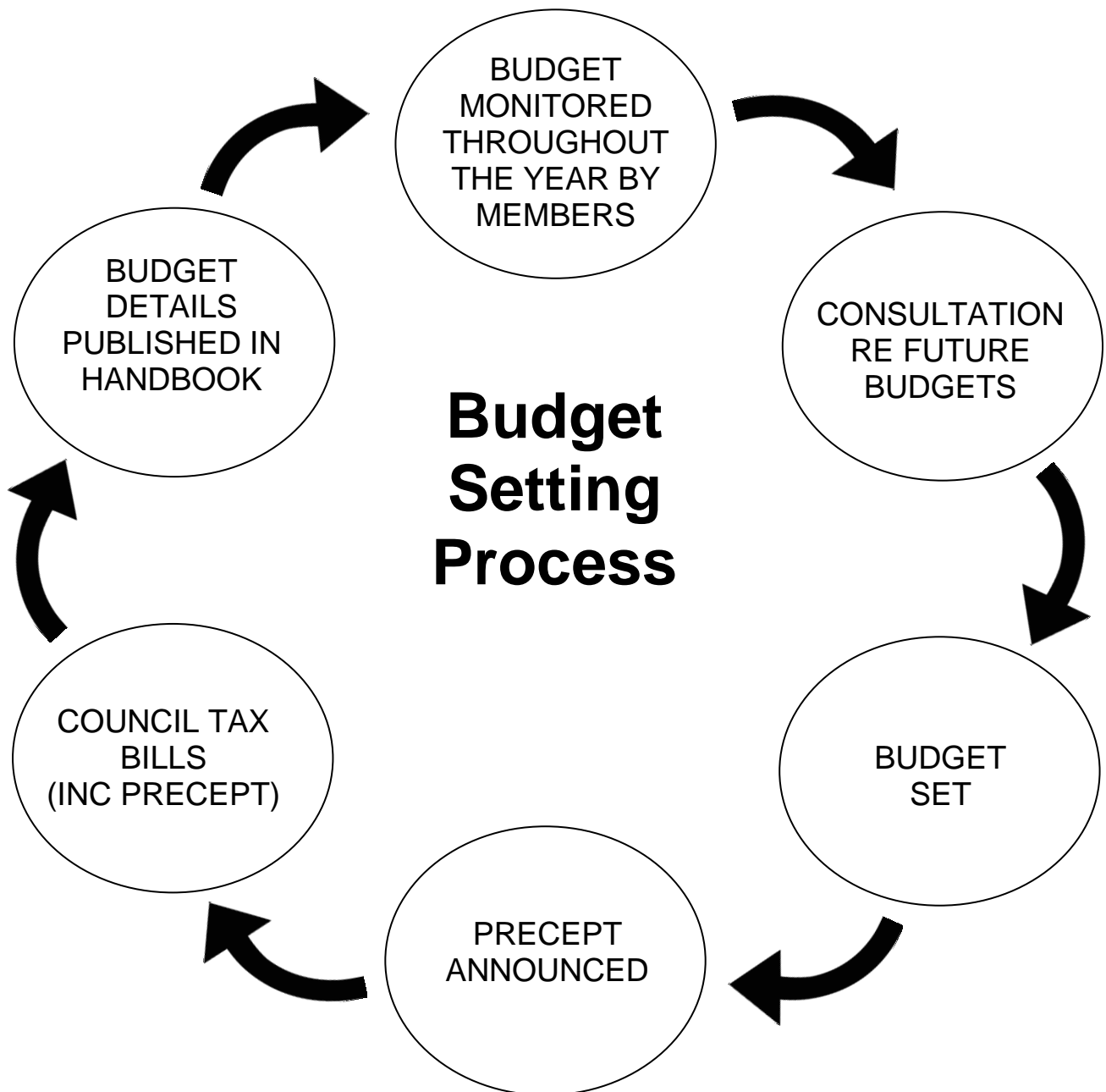
- Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.
- Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.
- Take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives in the local well-being plan that has affect in its area. In this regard and when the Public Services Board publishes its local well-being plan, 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 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.
- To work with others to bring about Well Being in Cwmbran.

## Our Budget Setting Cycle



This is how the Council will spend and raise its money in 2018/19.

Summary		2018/19	£
A	ELECTIONS		0
B	MEMBERS EXPENSES		12,860.00
C	STAFFING		242,460.00
G	ACCOMMODATION		66,970.00
H	OFFICE EXPENSES		29,120.00
I	POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE		69,150.00
K	GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS		12,980.00
L	EVENTS COMMITTEE		89,150.00
M	COMMUNITY TASK SCHEME		10,670.00
N	ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING		4,125.00
O	CWMBRAN CENTRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE		59,800.00
P	TWINNING ACTIVITIES		0.00
R	BANK INTEREST		-200.00
Grand Totals			597,085.00

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





## Cwmbran Community Council - "Our Year in Pictures"







Cwmbran Community Council  
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân



Cwmbran Community  
Council



@CwmbranCouncil



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

**Follow us on Social Networks!**

**Dilynwch ni ar Rwydweithiau Cymdeithasol!**



David Collins, Clerk to the Council / Clerc i'r Cyngor

The Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran, Torfaen, NP44 3JY



01633 624152



[david@cwmbran.gov.uk](mailto:david@cwmbran.gov.uk) / [clare@cwmbran.gov.uk](mailto:clare@cwmbran.gov.uk)

