

# Torfaen County Borough Council Corporate Plan 2016-2021

*Supportive, fair, effective*



TORFAEN  
COUNTY  
BOROUGH



BWRDEISTREF  
SIROL  
TORFAEN

# An improved, more equal and sustainable future for the people of Torfaen

**Our third Corporate Plan sets out how the council intends to work together with the communities we serve to create an improved, more equal and sustainable future for the people of Torfaen.**

We believe a fairer future is one where everyone has the opportunity to lead healthy, independent lives regardless of who you are or where you live.

It's a future where everyone works together to support our most vulnerable people, helping those in need, preventing suffering and hardship and doing all we can to reduce inequality in our communities.

It's a future where all our young people have the same opportunity to achieve by receiving the best possible standard of education.

And we want everyone to share a sense of pride and responsibility for creating and maintaining cleaner and greener communities.

These are the things that you told us are the most important to you and this plan sets out the journey we will take to get there. It won't be an easy one.

With continued cuts to our funding from central government and increased demand for our services we expect that by 2021, we will have made £63 million in savings during the previous ten years.

But with these challenges comes opportunity. We will embrace new ways of working and design services fit for a digital age, we'll be open, transparent and accountable and work together with you to find locally designed solutions that meet the needs of our local communities.

This plan sets out what the people of Torfaen can expect from us but equally, it sets out what we should expect from you.

Every pound of taxpayers money spent clearing up after people who dump rubbish in our countryside, drop litter on our streets or let their dogs foul in our parks is a pound that could have been invested in our schools, enhancing our open spaces or caring for people in need.

On behalf of this council, I promise we will do everything we can over the next five years to deliver on the actions we have set out in this plan, but we can only do it with your support.

Every one of us has a part to play.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bob Wellington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Councillor Bob Wellington, CBE  
Leader of Torfaen County Borough Council

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# The big picture: pressures on our budget...

**£** Between **2011 and 2021**, the council expects to have made more than **£63 million** in savings.



By **2021** the population of Torfaen is expected to be **92,769** with **19,928 over 65s** and **13,457 school age children** (5-16 years old).

**3,300** unemployed.  
(ONS Annual Population Survey 2014-15)



We have an ageing population putting pressure on health and social care services.



**79%** of households have internet access.  
(NSFW 2015)



More people are accessing digital services on mobile devices.

Median income in  
Torfaen £23,786  
Wales £24,713  
GB £28,024  
(Paycheck 2014)

## Our Corporate Plan has three priorities that will be focus of the council's activities over the next five years...

A graphic showing a green hill with a recycling bin, a dog, a tree, and a recycling truck.

### A clean and green Torfaen

Cleaner and greener communities and a sustainable local environment that residents can be proud of.

A graphic showing a school building and two students walking.

### Raising educational attainment

All our young people are given the best possible chance in life by attaining a good standard of education.

A graphic showing a woman and two elderly people walking in front of a house.

### Support for Torfaen's most vulnerable residents

A healthier community where the most vulnerable people are assisted to lead healthy, independent lives, where the council and other agencies work to prevent suffering and hardship and to reduce inequality.

# Priority: Clean and green

## Our vision

**Cleaner and greener communities and a sustainable local environment that residents can be proud of.**

## We will

- Keep the borough clean and free of litter
- Maintain open spaces on council owned land to an acceptable standard and work with private landowners and local partners to ensure this
- Work in a sustainable way to ensure the local environment is valued and maintained for future generations
- Ask residents for their views on maintaining open spaces in their communities
- Prosecute those caught committing environmental crimes where possible

## We will support

- Residents working to improve the appearance of their local community

## We will expect residents

- Not to litter, fly tip or allow their dogs to foul in public areas
- To increase their recycling, reduce their waste and report environmental crimes

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## Clean and green



fly-tipping incidents in 2014/15 with 98% cleared within 5 working days



of household waste recycled and composted



of people are satisfied with recycling collection service provided by the council (*National Survey for Wales 2015*)



of highways and relevant land inspected of a high or acceptable standard of cleanliness



of people state that the local area is well maintained (*National Survey for Wales 2014*)



of people state that the local area is free from litter and rubbish (*National Survey for Wales 2014*)

# Priority: Raising educational attainment

## Education

### Our vision

**All our young people are given the best possible chance in life by attaining a good standard of education.**

### We will

- Work with schools and teaching staff to raise attainment and encourage all young people to participate in post-16 education or training
- Work towards all schools being rated as green or yellow in the National School Categorisation system
- Ensure all children receive a good quality education, particularly looked after children, those with additional learning needs or at risk of going into care
- Work to close the gender and socio-economic attainment gaps
- Work to ensure all learners have effective literacy and numeracy skills
- Plan for new and improved school buildings which are fit for purpose in the 21st century
- Support and encourage our young people to prevent them becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training)
- Work with schools to ensure young people develop into well rounded citizens who have the best possible chance in the current jobs market
- Recognise the importance of early year's education, identifying the needs of learners and tailoring services to ensure all children and their parents/carers are supported to learn and achieve

### We will support

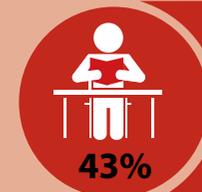
- Governing bodies to ensure they have the capacity to offer challenge and support for their schools and raise aspirations and achievement

### We will expect residents

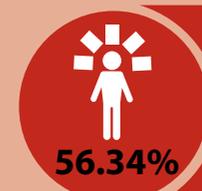
- To have high aspirations for their children and actively contribute to, and engage with, their children's education. This includes ensuring their children attend school ready to learn and make a positive contribution



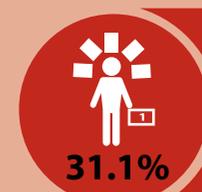
of parents often help their children with school work (8-12 year olds) (*National Survey for Wales 2014*) All Wales



of parents often help their children with school work (13-17 year olds) (*National Survey for Wales 2014*) All Wales



of pupils achieved the equivalent of 5 GCSE's at grade A\*- C including English/Welsh and Maths in 2015



of pupils on free school meals achieved the equivalent of 5 GCSE's at A\*- C including English/Welsh and Maths in 2014

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# Priority: Support for Torfaen's most vulnerable residents

## Our vision

A healthier community where the most vulnerable people are assisted to lead healthy, independent lives, where the council and other agencies work to prevent suffering and hardship and to reduce inequality.

## We will

- Support those who need it most, giving our most vulnerable residents safe, appropriate and dignified support but also promoting independence wherever possible
- Work with partners in the community and voluntary sector to help improve the lives of the most vulnerable
- Identify vulnerable people as soon as possible so that we can intervene early to support them and where possible to prevent their problems becoming greater
- Work to tackle poverty, especially child poverty, and to reduce inequality
- Support parents/carers and young people living in low-income households to improve their skills and avoid the health and social consequences of poverty

## We will support

- The third sector and communities to help people become more financially and socially resilient, with the rights skills, knowledge and support to be more independent
- The community to tackle specific health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles and promote information services which enable citizens to make informed choices
- Unpaid carers, in recognition of the huge contribution they make to our society, to better understand their needs

## We will expect residents

- To care for their children and keep them safe from harm
- To take care of each other and keep an eye out for those most in need

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## Vulnerability



19%

of households in Torfaen are in material deprivation (*National Survey for Wales 2015*)



296

Looked After Children in Torfaen at the end of March 2015



11,929

or 13.1% of the Torfaen population provide unpaid care to others in Torfaen (*Census 2011*)



22.4%

of children in Torfaen live in low income households *Low income (poverty) is defined at income less than 60% of GB median income*



21,947

people living with long term limiting illness in Torfaen (*Census 2011*)



14.1%

of the working age population receive key out of work benefits

# How we will work to deliver these priorities

**We will strive to be an efficient, innovative council that values its staff and treats service users with respect, supporting our communities and protecting local services**



**We will strive to listen** to the views of residents, communicating our intentions honestly and clearly wherever possible but we cannot deny that there will be tough decisions as the amount of money the council has declines thanks to government cuts, and as demand on services like social care rises.



**We will be a council** that operates according to the sustainable development principle within the **Well-being of Future Generations Act** when making decisions. The principle has five considerations:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement



**We recognise** the contribution of our staff and will treat them with respect. We believe in a constructive relationship with Trade Unions and in good workforce planning, to aid the future delivery of services and for the welfare of our employees.



**We will be** an open and transparent council with sound financial processes.

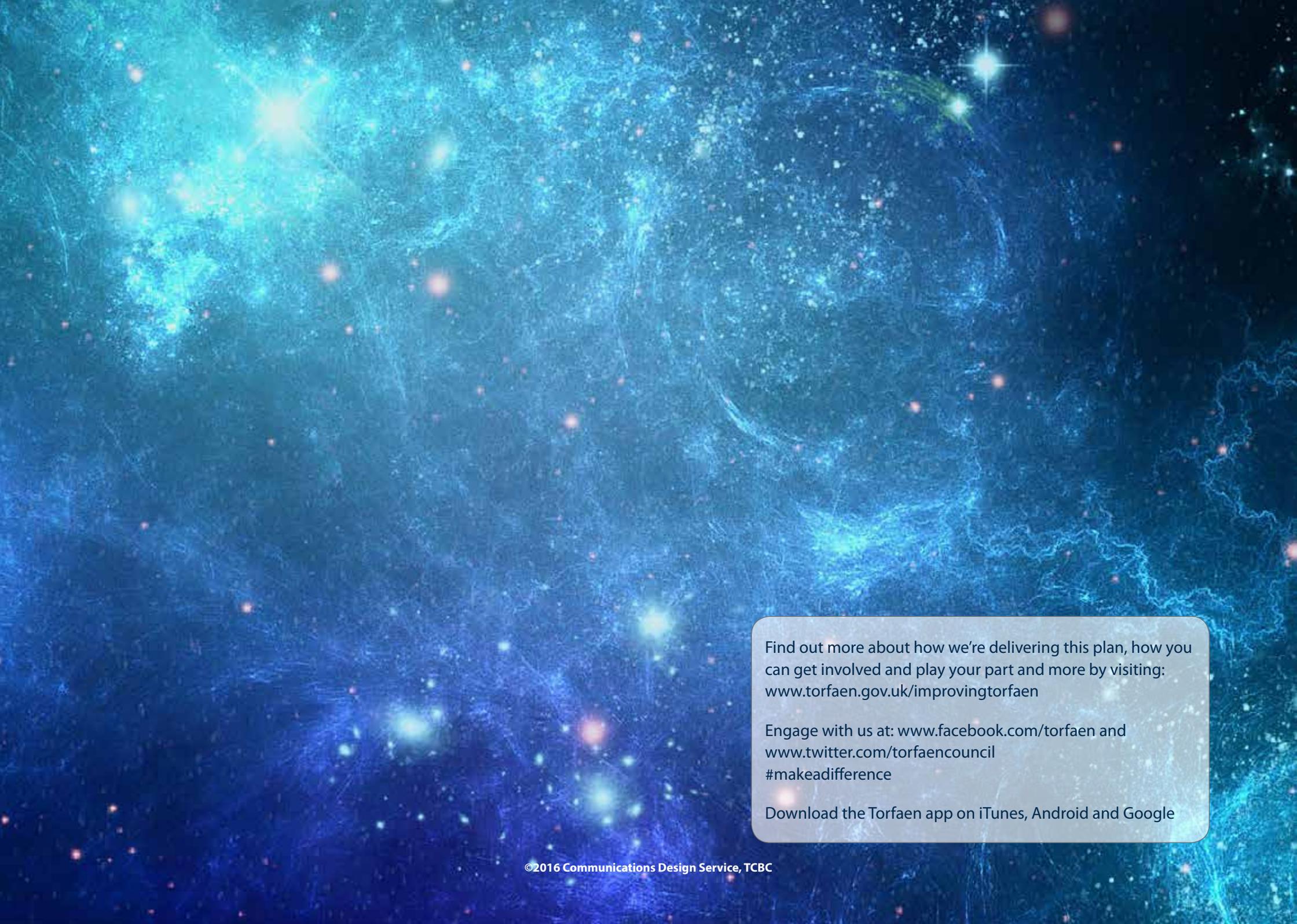


**We will support** our local economy wherever possible.



**We recognise** the council cannot do everything and will work with partners and the community to help residents and strengthen our communities.





Find out more about how we're delivering this plan, how you can get involved and play your part and more by visiting:  
[www.torfaen.gov.uk/improvingtorfaen](http://www.torfaen.gov.uk/improvingtorfaen)

Engage with us at: [www.facebook.com/torfaen](https://www.facebook.com/torfaen) and  
[www.twitter.com/torfaencouncil](https://www.twitter.com/torfaencouncil)  
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