

## Stirling Council's Sustainable Development Strategy Framework

### Policy Statement on Sustainable Development

The over-arching sustainable development aim of the Council is to enable all people throughout the Stirling Council area to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a good quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

The Council will pursue this aim in an integrated way by supporting an innovative, resource-efficient economy that delivers high levels of employment and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment using resources and energy as efficiently as possible.

### Framework for Action

Following extensive consultation, the UK sustainable development strategy, [Securing the Future](#), and a shared framework for sustainable development by the devolved administrations, [One Future – Different Paths](#), were published in March 2005. Each of these documents adopted the same set of guiding principles and priorities for action across the UK. For continuity and consistency of delivery, the Council has adopted the same framework, adapted where necessary for the local situation. This is given below.

### Aim

This strategy for sustainable development aims to enable all people throughout the Stirling Council area to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a good quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

#### Guiding Principles

##### **GP1 - Ensuring a Strong, Healthy & Just Society:**

Meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equality of opportunity for all.

##### **GP2 - Living Within Environmental Limits:**

Working locally to respect the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity. The aim is to improve our environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations.

##### **GP3 - Achieving a Sustainable Economy:**

Building a strong, stable and sustainable local economy which provides prosperity for all and in which environmental and social costs are taken into consideration and efficient resource use is encouraged.

##### **GP4 - Promoting Good Governance:**

Actively promoting effective, participative systems of governance at all levels of society - engaging people's creativity, energy, and diversity.

##### **GP5 - Evidence-based Policy:**

Ensuring policy is developed and implemented on the basis of strong evidence, whilst taking into account scientific uncertainties as well as public attitudes and values.

These principles form the basis for sustainable development policy in the Council. For a policy to support sustainability, it should respect all five principles.

## Priorities for Action

Four broad areas for immediate action emerged from extensive UK consultation and analysis and were used to develop the Council's sustainable development objectives.

### **PA1 - Climate Change and Energy**

The effects of a changing climate can already be seen - temperatures and sea levels are rising while ice and snow cover are declining. Scientific evidence has indicated that the primary cause of these effects is due to the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by human activity. Profound changes in the methods of generation and use of energy are required to reverse or even halt this trend.

**Objective 1: The Council will work to reduce the cause and effects of climate change in line with national targets.**

### **PA2 - Sustainable Communities**

Sustainable communities are places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all. People also need public open space where they can relax and interact and the ability to have a say on the way their neighbourhood is run. At the same time, we also need to consider the impact of our everyday actions on communities overseas.

**Objective 2: The Council will work to create thriving, vibrant, sustainable communities that will improve everyone's quality of life.**

### **PA3 Sustainable Consumption and Procurement**

This means endeavouring to achieve more with less negative impacts and entails not only looking at how goods and services are produced and delivered, but also the impacts of products and materials across their whole lifecycle. By reducing the inefficient use of resources, there should be less negative impact on the economy with the intention of reducing the direct link which has been present to date between economic growth and environmental degradation.

**Objective 3: The Council will promote sustainable use of resources through procurement, use and disposal.**

### **PA4 - Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement**

Natural resources are vital to our existence and that of communities throughout the world. We need to engender a better understanding of environmental limits, enhancement and recovery (where our activities cause environmental degradation) to ensure a decent environment for everyone.

**Objective 4: The Council will work to conserve and enhance the natural environment.**

Whilst the guiding principles apply to all work carried out by the Council, the priorities for action and associated objectives provide direction for more specific activity in progressing the Council's sustainable development agenda.