



Aberdeenshire Council recognises that all of its functions and operations have an impact on the environment. The Council will therefore reduce its impact on the local and global environment by demonstrating clear leadership, providing high quality services, whilst preventing pollution, reducing waste and saving energy and water. The Council will ensure compliance with all environmental legislation, guidance and best practice principles to fulfil its statutory environmental responsibilities. As part of its commitment to sustainable

development and safeguarding the environment Aberdeenshire Council will follow a precautionary approach, protect the environment and our outstanding natural surroundings. We will do this by working constructively with partners and by the continuous improvement of our own environmental performance. To combat climate change we will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, conserve our natural resources, enhance bio-diversity and further improve the quality of life and the sense of well-being for all residents.

## To meet this commitment we will:

- Maintain and develop systems and procedures that identify and manage the Council's environmental impacts.
- Take action to prevent pollution and minimise environmental risks.
- Reduce our use of energy, water and natural resources in support of zero waste.
- Provide a planning system that ensures all development is sustainable.
- Reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases from council buildings, our operations and activities and respond to, mitigate and adapt to wider climate change impacts.
- Lead by example and use our influence to raise awareness and understanding of environmental issues and actively encourage responsible environmental practice amongst staff, suppliers, contractors, partners and the public.
- Develop and implement integrated, sustainable transport solutions and travel plans that meet the needs of employees, residents and visitors, including staff journeys to, from and at work.
- Reduce environmental impacts through the procurement and commissioning process. Require our suppliers and contractors to minimise the environmental impact of their goods and services.
- Conserve the natural and historic environment by protecting and enhancing landscape, bio-diversity and historic assets.
- Influence and support educational establishments to use the natural world and the sustainable development agenda across the curriculum to develop the environmental awareness of our children and young people.
- Set formal objectives across all services and provide the necessary training, resources and performance review to ensure continuous improvement of overall environmental performance.
- Promote this policy and make it known to all staff, members, suppliers, contractors, partners and the public.

Jim Gifford  
Council Leader

Colin Mackenzie  
Chief Executive

September, 2013