

VALE OF GLAMORGAN

ENVIRONMENT POLICY



The Vale of Glamorgan Council has a significant impact on the local environment. This impact arises from providing services (direct effects), for example by staff using resources and creating waste; and from influencing the environmental actions of others (indirect effects), for example by regulating, motivating and raising environmental awareness.

The council provides a range of services: education, social care and safeguarding for children and adults, planning and building control, highways design and maintenance, waste management and cleansing, public housing and building services, public protection, economic projects, leisure and countryside, grounds maintenance, benefits administration, election administration, collection of Council Tax and Business Rates, libraries, adult education, youth services and youth justice services. There are also a range of support services: human resources, financial services information and communications technology support, contact centre, communications, performance management, legal support, and democratic services. The council supports a range of partnerships: the Local Services Board; community safety; children and young people; health, and wellbeing; learning and skills; regeneration; communities first; safeguarding; older people.

The council recognises its impact on the area and is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations by promoting sustainable practices and acting responsibly, and considering environmental, ecological, social and economic factors in all decision making processes.

The council is committed to continual environmental improvement and the Corporate Plan 2010-2014 outlines a number of improvement objectives and actions relating to this commitment. A key aim of the Corporate Plan is 'to work with partners to develop a sustainable community which maximises opportunities for economic growth, social improvement and environmental regeneration and protection'.

In all its activities the council will endeavour to adhere to principles of sustainability and sustainable development, specifically:

- Ensure that environmental legislation is complied with, and fulfil our statutory environmental responsibilities.
- Minimise the use of non-renewable resources including energy in its own buildings, vehicles and in all council activities.
- Avoid waste and encourage the conservation, reuse and recycling of resources.
- Encourage the installation of renewable energy sources.
- Eliminate environmental pollution from its activities and influence others to do the same.
- Conserve, restore and enhance the Vale's built and natural environment, keeping it safe, diverse and pleasant.
- Reduce the need for the movement of both people and goods. Where movement is necessary, encourage the use of public transport, car sharing, cycling and walking.
- Procure and provide goods and services in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.
- Promote understanding and participation in environmental issues through education, information and community consultation.
- Provide appropriate resources and the necessary training for staff to ensure that they are able to fulfil the commitment given in this policy.
- Consider biodiversity in the actions of the council.

This Environmental Policy will be made available to all staff and other interested parties.

Signed

20 December 2012

Cllr Neil Moore – Leader of the Council

Signed

20 December 2012

Sian Davies, Managing Director