

*Towards the very best...*

# Education Learning & Leisure Sustainable Communities and Economies



**Aberdeenshire**   
COUNCIL

Serving Aberdeenshire from mountain to sea – the very best of Scotland

# Education, Learning and Leisure: Sustainable Communities & Economies

## Policy statement 2012

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### Rationale

Aberdeenshire Council will support communities to identify and achieve a high quality of life with improved socio-economic prospects.

We will work with committed partners in the community and other key agencies to ensure common goals are achieved.

Services will be prioritised on a clearly identified needs and demand-led basis, which will be evidenced in appropriate service strategies and service plan.

This policy supports the principles of increased social returns on investment, employment and retention of local spend.

### Guiding Principles

Developing sustainable communities and economies is linked closely to other strategic documents within Aberdeenshire Council, as well as nationally.

It is envisaged that the vehicles for delivering on this objective will be Service strategies.

#### **However, it is accepted that:**

- There should be a balance to be struck between locally adopted strategies and national documents /frameworks.
- There should be a need to develop particular skills both in the community and within the council.
- Community empowerment and leadership is paramount in terms of achieving objectives.
- Equity, fairness and respect are key principles that underpin this policy.
- Partnership working with communities, stakeholders and external funding agencies will be key in achieving outcomes expected.

## Outcomes

- Proactive and ambitious communities which have confidence in the support infrastructure
- Communities which are skilled, competent and resourceful, with an understanding of Aberdeenshire Council support and shared responsibility.
- A sense of community, place, pride and identity
- Improved quality of life, economic expectations and opportunities.
- Enhanced local environments and place-making agendas
- Integrated cross-sector and cross-service working to benefit local communities

## Roles & Responsibility

All employees have a role to play in creating a climate which encourages inward investment and maximises resources by working with volunteers and key partners.