From mountain to sea

Resources and Circular Economy Commitment

Scotland is currently pursuing a transition to a 'circular economy' [1]. This is a revolution in the way products are designed, procured, used, reused, repaired and recycled.   It means that, through innovative new processes and standards, products and materials are kept in high value use for as long as possible. This transition to a society and economy in which fewer resources are consumed and wasted will benefit our environment, economy and communities.

Aberdeenshire Council, building on its commitments in its Environmental and Climate Change Policy, recognises that it has a duty to support and lead in the transition to a circular economy both locally and nationally. The Council will therefore strive towards greater sustainability and responsibility in the way it considers, purchases and manages physical resources, innovating and collaborating in support of a more circular economy.

To meet this commitment we will:

- Promote, effect and support circular economy principles and practice internally and in our external areas of influence such as events, contractors, partners, community and government.
- Develop an internal Resources and Circular Economy Framework to give principles, expectations and guidance to all staff and Services.

Smarter purchasing

- Promote circular purchasing options, such as sharing, reuse, leasing and purchasing of items that have been designed, manufactured or sourced with circular economy principles in mind.
- Support suppliers with circular economy principles, including circular design, reuse and repair, and the reduction of unnecessary use of resources.
- Avoid, where possible, the purchase of items which do not contribute to a more circular economy and do not represent a responsible use of resources, such as some single or limited use items.

Better resource management

- Establish reuse systems and processes that facilitate the efficient and effective internal sharing and reuse of all manner of council physical resources.
- Develop external links and arrangements, including with the third sector and community groups, to ensure that resources not needed within the council go to the most productive use possible, with disposal (recycling, landfill or burning) being the last resort.

Responsible recycling

- Ensure that verified, responsible recycling routes are used, wherever practicable, that appropriate infrastructure and guidance is provided across council premises, and that staff comply with recycling procedures.

[1] Scottish Government, 2016. Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland.