



## Sunderland Community Led Local Development

### Sustainable Development Policy

Sustainable development is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, both now and for generations to come. Sustainable development is widely defined as:

*"Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."* (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).

The CLLD Local Action Group (LAG) have developed and adopted this Sustainable Development Policy to help the programme improve its effectiveness in meeting the sustainability objectives within the CLLD Local Development Strategy (LDS). Demonstrating sustainability is one of the three cross-cutting themes that under-pins the LDS. Although this policy has been specifically constructed for the CLLD programme, it will align to the underlying criteria and objectives of the wider city's Sustainability Policy and carbon reduction commitments.

The Sunderland CLLD Partnership is committed to sustainable development, which will be pursued by a series of integrated actions designed to achieve a sustainable, innovative and productive local economy that delivers high levels of employment; and promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well-being. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible.

To support the implementation of sustainable development, the Sunderland CLLD partnership has adopted the following principles:

- Understand and balance the environmental, social and economic impacts of the decisions we make;
- Live within environmental limits, ensuring the prudent use of natural resources and the prevention of pollution;
- Take a long term perspective in all that we do;
- Ensure a 'whole programme approach' to sustainable development;
- Continual improvement, through setting objectives and targets and monitoring and review.

There are four sustainable development priority areas the LAG will champion locally. These are interdependent but clearly distinct priority areas for which outcomes will be achieved:

- **Sustainable Consumption and Procurement** - Change the way products and services are designed, produced, used and disposed of to achieve more with less.

*SD Policy Objective 1:* CLLD will promote sustainable use of resources through procurement, use and disposal.

- **Climate Change and Energy** - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the UK and worldwide whilst preparing for the climate change that cannot be avoided.

*SD Policy Objective 2:* CLLD will work to reduce the cause and effects of climate change in line with national targets.

- **Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement**- ensure that the impact on natural resources is sensitive to environmental limits and the needs of others both now and in the future.

*SD Policy Objective 3:* CLLD will work to conserve and enhance the natural environment.

- **Developing Sustainable Communities** - to provide safe, just, well planned, built and run communities that offer equality of opportunity and quality services for all.

*SD Policy Objective 4:* CLLD will work to create thriving, vibrant, sustainable communities that will improve everyone's quality of life.

The Sunderland CLLD Partnership adopts the following definition of a sustainable community:

*"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." (2003 Sustainable Communities Plan).*

Within the CLLD Programme itself the LAG aims to develop its strong 'community' ethos, from how we engage with residents and participants through to how we deliver and operate activities. Within the local community, the CLLD programme will position itself as an exemplar and work with local stakeholders towards a sustainable community. Within the city and wider region, it aims to be a proactive and responsive stakeholder in promoting sustainable development.

The LAG is firmly committed to promoting sustainable development whilst delivering activities funded by the European Structural Investment Funds, and will require a similar assurance from all delivery providers and their sub-providers.

The LAG will also require confirmation that each organisation involved in delivery of the CLLD programme (the provider and any sub-providers) will:

- (a) Dispose of its waste using a registered waste collector and
- (b) Observe and comply with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations

The sustainable development policies of lead providers and their sub-providers will undergo a basic initial assessment at application stage to ensure that a policy exists or that the key elements of the policy have been drafted.