**1.14 Environmental Policy Statement**

Wigan Youth Zone respects the natural, built, social and economic environments in which it operates. We are committed to conducting our operations in an environmentally and socially responsible manner and will work closely with our employees, volunteers, members, and other parties to:

* Respect and contribute positively to the local community;
* Offer opportunities to improve energy efficiency or carbon emissions;
* Use renewable resources in preference to non-renewable and use local and recycled materials where appropriate;
* Source products that are manufactured with due regard to human rights;
* Protect and enhance ecologies.

We are committed to engaging with professional and regulatory organisations as well as our members to help raise environmental standards. We are committed to continual improvement through the adoption of innovative techniques and best practises that meet societal needs and achieve better environmental outcomes. We will monitor compliance so that we:

* Comply with all UK legal and Wigan Youth Zone requirements, the former being regarded as a minimum standard in any operational location;
* Prevent pollution and protect both the natural and built environment;
* Reduce the effects of noise, disturbance and inconvenience arising from our activities;
* Use resources such as energy, water and raw materials efficiently;
* Purchase goods and materials that are not scarce or known to cause significant environmental harm;
* Minimise waste through re-use and recycling and safely dispose of any waste;
* Respond promptly to any complaints or incidents and report these in accordance with Wigan Youth Zone requirements.

In our premises and offices we seek to progressively:

* Improve energy efficiency and reduce energy wastage in the premises we occupy;
* Reduce and re-use waste and improve recycling.

To implement this policy we will ensure that throughout the business, environmental risks are identified, environmentally safe systems of work are adopted and best practise is shared. We will actively involve our employees and volunteers and ensure through training that they are aware of the environmental impacts of their activities and know how to act responsibly. It is the responsibility of every supervisor, employee and volunteer in the business to:

* Perform their job so as to comply with all environmental requirements;
* Stop if they believe what they are doing will cause pollution or an environmental incident, and;
* Look out for environmental improvement opportunities.

The effectiveness of our management arrangements in delivering this policy together with our environmental performance and compliance with legislation is routinely monitored and reported to the management team on a regular basis. The Environmental Policy will be brought to the attention of all employees and persons working on behalf of Wigan Youth Zone. The policy will be reviewed annually.

**Signed:**  **Date: 12/04/2024**

**Anthony-Ashworth Steen**

**Executive Director**