

## **Espoo is a city of education and culture**

In our city, everyone has a feeling that he or she matters, belongs to a community and can make a difference. We ensure that everyone has the skills and knowledge needed in the future. Opportunities to grow, learn and develop, maintain one's health and well-being, participate and be active are available for all. With the help of education and cultural services, citizens are empowered and become part of the community and the society. Inequality diminishes.

Education and cultural services play a key role when we create a sustainable society. The principle of sustainable development is reflected in everything we do.

We reach our goals through collaboration and courageous leadership.

## **Operating environment**

Espoo is a vibrant and rapidly growing city. Especially the share of New Finns grows fast. The city is culturally diverse. Our second official language, Swedish, is part of the history, present and future of Espoo. The level of education and income is high in Espoo, and most residents are satisfied with their level of well-being and quality of life.

When providing education and cultural services, we take into account that there are citizens who need social assistance in their everyday lives. Poverty in families with children and regional segregation are increasing. Producing sufficient services of even quality, the integration of New Finns and cost-efficiency are in the centre of our operations.

## **City of education and culture for all**

Meaningful everyday life that is rich in content

- The education and cultural services support the overall well-being of the citizens and the community, initiating a circle of good. The services are easy to find, and the threshold to participate is low. Digitalisation enhances the quality, accessibility and cost-efficiency of our services. Education and cultural services are offered in versatile facilities situated in all the city centres of Espoo.

We leave no one behind

- We provide opportunities for encounters, to do things together and strengthen the sense of community. Our services focus on empowerment and increasing equality. Diversity is a valuable part of everyday life in Espoo, and we keep that in mind when organising the services. Together we are more.

Together and as a partner

- Active Espoo residents are our asset. Residents and partners are involved in the planning and development of the services.

## **City of education and culture for learning / A learning city**

### The basis of success

- Learning and solid knowledge are the cornerstones of our success. Everyone has the opportunity to learn and grow into their full potential.

### Smooth learning paths

- Learning continues throughout life. We provide smooth learning paths from early childhood education to school, from one education level to another and on to working life. For residents in working-age and seniors, we offer opportunities for long active citizenship.

### Diverse learning environments

- The joy of learning grows in inspiring and safe environments, together with others and using diverse methods. You can learn everywhere. The whole city serves as a platform for learning and growth.

## **A vibrant city of education and culture**

### Creative and active

- We provide versatile cultural and sports services and experiences for all Espoo residents.
- In Espoo, culture and art are present in the Espoo identity, the daily lives of the citizens and in the physical urban environment.
- We encourage children and young people to exercise and engage in sports, promote an active lifestyle of the working-age population and support seniors in maintaining a physically active and self-directed way of life. We create conditions for top-class sports.

### Attractive

- Learning, culture, sports and other services create a positive buzz in our city. They strengthen the vitality of the city and the citizens, and contribute to the attractiveness of the city as a whole.

## **An innovative city of education and culture**

### Creative in everyday life

- We make innovative solutions possible and work creatively. We support the activity of our citizens.

### The courage to try

- We are a pioneer in the development of education and cultural services. We open-mindedly test and develop new ways of doing things. Inspired residents and personnel are committed to developing themselves and their work continuously.

### An active international operator

- We are known internationally for being an active operator with wide networks. We learn from others and welcome others to learn from us. Internationality in everyday life in Espoo enables growth, development and well-being for all Espoo residents.