



## **CAN A SMALL COMMUNITY MAKE A GLOBAL DIFFERENCE?**

*Can a small community make a global difference? In Tierp, a rural municipality with a big vision, sustainability is not just part of the agenda; it is at the heart of everything we do. There is a constant endeavour to translate major global environmental goals into concrete local action. We challenge conventional approaches and show that even small actors can make a significant difference for the challenge of global sustainability. Every initiative Tierp municipality takes on is proof of this commitment, from innovative waste management solutions to transitions into renewable energy.*

*The municipality practices sustainability by integrating environmentally friendly strategies into everything from urban planning to services. Through our work, we inspire new thinking. A place where every decision and every action taken contributes to a bigger vision: to shape a world where sustainability is the norm, not the exception. In Tierp municipality, it is clear that even the smaller players have the power to make a significant impact and lead the way towards a more sustainable future.*

# INTRODUCTION AND OUTLINE

This report has been produced in collaboration with a large number of stakeholders in Tierp. All managers of municipal operations and municipal companies have contributed by describing how they are working towards the Sustainable Development Goals today and how they assess their operations' goal fulfilment. Employees who carry out various activities within the municipality's operations have illustrated their work and provided good examples. The Tierp business community and civil society has given their views on the main challenges ahead. These articles comprise some examples of sustainability work carried out by the municipality.

**How to read this report: This report has three main parts.**

**INTRODUCTION**, which gives a background to why Tierp municipality has chosen to do a local voluntary review, key facts about the municipality and a description of the municipality's governance model and history.

**PART TWO ARTICLES** consists of various examples from the municipal activities and shows what sustainability work looks like in practice and how it links to the fulfilment of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals. This is the main part of the report and looks at both what is successful and the challenges faced.

**PART THREE FOLLOW-UP** is a summary of Tierp municipality's annual report. In this part, the reader can get an overview of local goal fulfilment of the prioritised local targets as well as trends relating to selected national indicators of the seventeen goals from the national database Kolada ([www.kolada.se](http://www.kolada.se)). There is also a reference to how Tierp municipality's goal fulfilment relates to global goal fulfilment. This part contains a concluding statement from the Chief executive officer of Tierp on the municipality's work and the steps needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

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# FOREWORD BY THE MAYOR

There are many, large and complex global challenges that need addressing here and now. They are present in day-to-day municipal life too. Management by objectives is an art form for municipal operations. And to politically decide on a management model which transparently visualises these challenges from a global perspective is both democratically responsible and brave.

Tierp Municipality does that by directly transferring the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda into our management model for the entire municipal group. Thereby, we are not adding the SDGs on to an existing management system or making it a parallel structure such as a policy or an action plan. Instead, we have made the Sustainable Development Goals the spine of the organisation. This implies that the management by objectives framework of the municipal budget is based entirely on locally set targets to each of the 17 SDGs. By fully managing on the basis of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, all regular monitoring, reviews, auditing and reporting is also focused on following Tierp municipality's development within the three overarching dimensions of sustainability, climate and environment, economic and social aspects. Tierp municipality has more than just colourful labels on our sustainability work, we do real implementation.

The greater the global challenges, the higher the expectations of citizens on society's institutions to find solutions. Having fully governed on the SDGs since 2020, we can now conclude that it is the right management model for glocal work. The key to turning sustainable development into a positive trend is an approach based on the power of the indivisibility of the SDGs. The local targets call on all levels of society to contribute to a joint goal fulfilment of the SDGs. Tierp municipality creates conditions for a unified local implementation within its area of responsibility. That makes a global difference.

The 2030 Agenda SDGs are indivisible. Together they form a whole. Likewise, all parts are needed for a cohesive society. Global challenges can only be solved together, bit by bit. All actors need to contribute within their areas of expertise and their power of execution. This is how we in Tierp municipality shoulder society's expectations. We make it happen here and now. We make a difference here and now.

Sara Sjödal



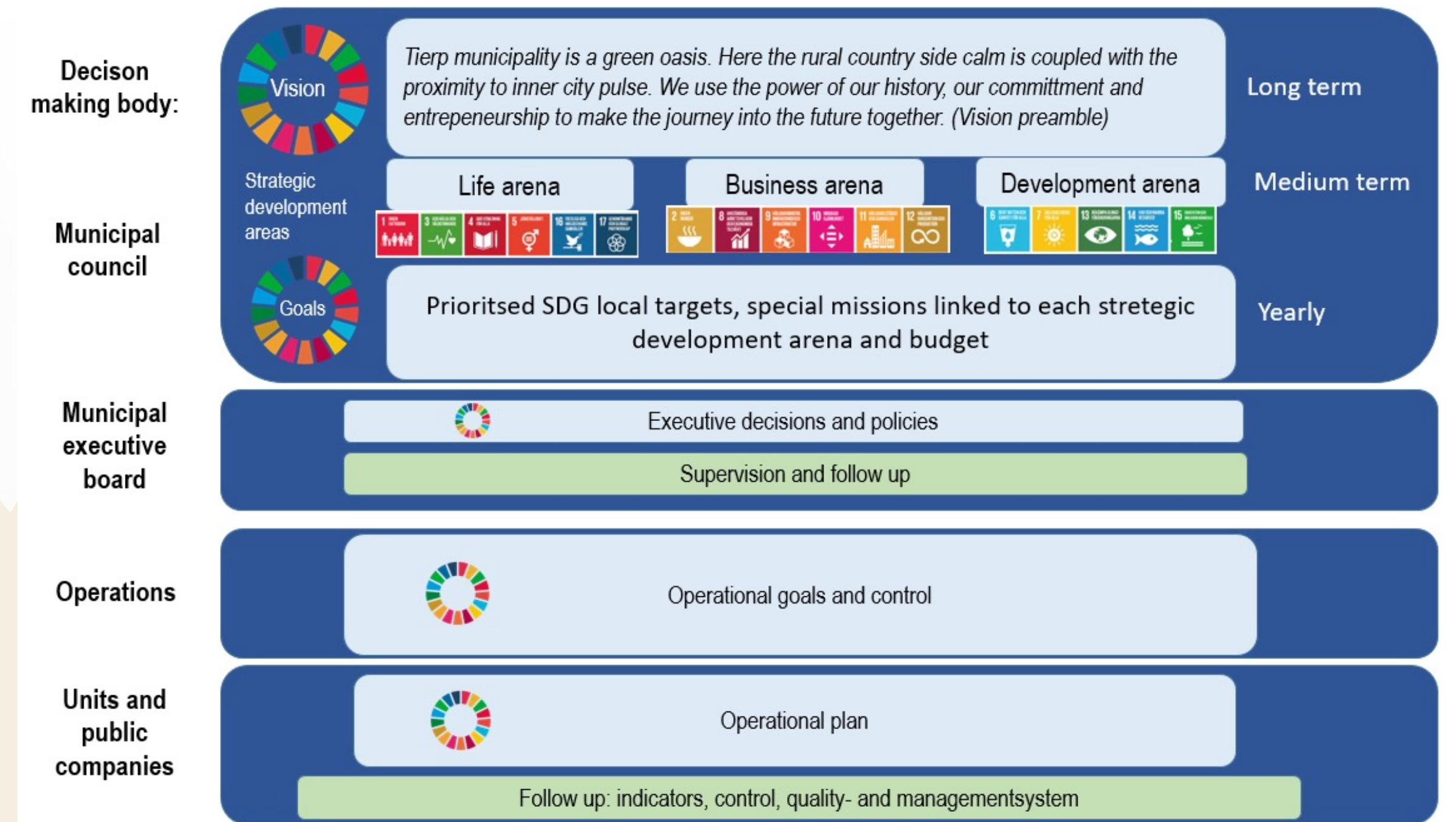
# TIERP'S GOVERNANCE MODEL

**The governance model of a municipality describes how municipal operations are managed and controlled. The governance model aims to ensure that political decisions translate into operational activities. The governance of Tierp municipality is based on politically set objectives coupled with a trust-based approach. Great emphasis is placed on transparency and citizens' understanding of the municipality's activities.**

The municipal council sets objectives for the municipality's operations and its public companies to steer by. There are long-term (Vision), medium-term (a political term in office) and short-term (yearly) objectives. At the start of each new term in office, the ruling majority or minority decide on so-called strategic development areas for each of the three arenas that form thematic strands of the municipality's long-term Vision. The three arenas coincide with the three dimensions of sustainability. Based on the development arenas, the ruling coalition each year assign special missions to the municipal operations. They also prioritise and decide on which sustainable development goal targets that will help achieve the Vision. In this way, the special missions together with the prioritised sustainable development goal targets form the basis of the municipality's yearly Financial and Operational Plan (budget). The municipal operations responsible for delivering services to citizens then develop operational plans with activities based on the targets and assignments decided in the budget.

Tierp municipality is organised with one central committee, the municipal executive board. This implies that the municipal executive board acquires in-depth knowledge of all operations and is able to make decisions with a better understanding of how they affect the municipality as a whole, putting the individual in focus. This organisational form means that citizens have a single point of contact when wanting to be in touch with the municipality. It also creates better opportunities for collaboration between operations, reinforcing the trust-based approach that aims to create and maintain a culture of respect and trust between managers and staff as well as between politicians and civil servants.

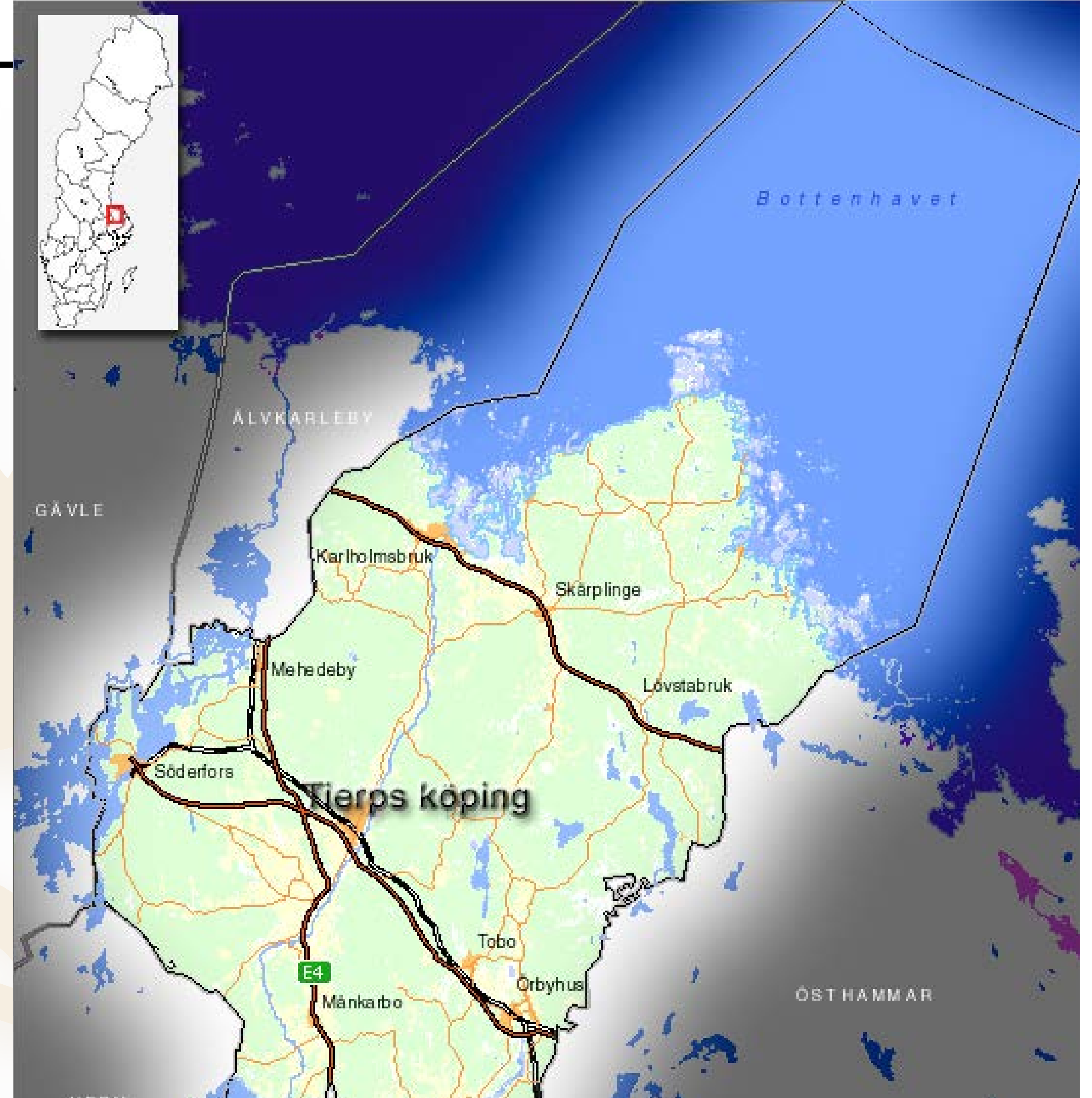
Throughout the year, the municipal executive board and the council take various decisions. Prior to decisions on matters of particular importance to citizens or requiring significant financial resources, a sustainability analysis is carried out which illustrates what consequences a decision may have relating to each of the Sustainable Development Goals. The aim of the analysis is to create a well-founded basis for decision-making where possible conflicts of interest or other obstacles to promoting sustainable development are illustrated.



*“The SDGs form the basis of the municipality's budget and the operations' activities are carried out in order to meet the set local targets.”*

# QUICK FACTS ABOUT TIERP MUNICIPALITY

**Tierps Kommun** [/'ti:erps/kø'mø:n/]: **Geography:** Tierp municipality is situated in East Middle Sweden, in Uppsala county, North Uppland and comprises an area of approximately 1 550 km<sup>2</sup> with a coastline of 260 kilometres. Tierp town is the largest urban area and the municipality comprises many other smaller towns and villages. **Population:** there are approximately 22 000 residents in Tierp municipality, a third of which live in rural areas. The average age of residents is 43,8 years old, which is slightly higher than the average age of Sweden as a whole. There is a strong local identification among residents. **History:** Tierp municipality has a rich history dating back to the Vendel period (iron age). The area is known for its historic iron works that played an important part in Swedish industrial history. **Economy:** The economy of Tierp is varied. Large employers are the municipality itself, Region Uppsala (health services and public transport) and a number of private companies with Atlas Copco Tools AB as the largest private employer. The unemployment rate is 6,5%. Many people commute to work, in particular to Uppsala and Gävle. **Infrastructure:** the municipality is well connected with both roads and railways which provides fast access to Stockholm, Uppsala and Gävle and beyond. **Nature and leisure:** With good access to forests and the long coast line, Tierp municipality offers opportunities for many leisure activities such as hiking, canoeing and twitching. **Sustainability:** Tierp municipality actively works to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, furthing the use of renewable energy. **Summary:** Tierp municipality combines the calm of the country side with proximity to the big cities. With a rich history and a strong vision for the future the municipality is working toward sustainable development and a high quality of life for its citizens.





## WHERE HISTORY MEETS THE PRESENT

*Located in the heart of North Uppland, the municipality of Tierp has a rich and extensive heritage that reflects the wider cultural history of Sweden. The area has been inhabited since prehistoric times and has played a central role in the development of the Sweden we know today. From the clan seats of the Vendel era to the age of expansive ironworks, every corner of Tierp carries deep historical layers which together weave a story of survival, innovation and social transformation. From the beginning of the Iron Age to today's vibrant culture in the industrial heritage sites, it is clear to see how different eras and events have left their mark on the municipality's unique identity. – Now we're adding an extra layer of sustainability to carry the traditions into the next millennium.*





# A LIVING CULTURAL HERITAGE

## Communities built by people over time

**When tracing the historical course of events in Tierp municipality, it is common to start with the Iron Age finds made in Vendel parish, which lent its name to the Vendel period.**

The Vendel era was characterised by significant social change and a rich material culture, as seen in the many archaeological finds of burial mounds and clan seats in the area. It was a time when powerful clans and chieftains ruled the land. Their presence and influence laid the foundation for the next thousand years of Swedish history.

During the Middle Ages, the areas continued to develop and became a hub of the Swedish iron industry. It was from this region that Gustav Vasa initiated the export of iron. His reign in the 16th century marked the beginning of a flourishing period for a number of ironworks in the area.

The most famous of these, Lövsta, Söderfors and Karlholm Ironworks, soon became important centres of iron production both nationally and internationally, where innovation and new technologies emerged to improve and streamline processes.

Louis De Geer, known as the 'father of Swedish industry', had a significant influence on iron production in Uppland, with Lövstabruk as one of his main works. His methods and skilful administration helped to modernise iron processing, placing Lövsta Works at the forefront of industrial development. Today, Lövsta Works is a popular visitor and tourist destination, partly because of its splendour and the well-preserved industrial heritage.

Söderfors Works was built in the late 17th century. It specialised in the manufacture of maritime anchors. This anchor production became well known for its quality and Söderfors became an important supplier not only in Sweden but also internationally. During the 19th century, Söderfors developed further with the introduction of new technologies and production methods, including the Siemens-Martin process for steel production. The Works became an important part of the industrial development of the region, and in the 20th century this included the production of stainless steel, high-speed steel and hard metal. This led to Söderfors Works becoming a leading producer in high-tech manufacturing and its products have been an important export through the centuries. Moreover, Söderfors Works is today one of Sweden's largest architectural monuments.



SÖDERFORS BRUK

During the 19th century, the Lancashire forge was introduced in Karlholm works, marking a significant technological change. Originating in England, this technology revolutionised iron production through its ability to produce high-quality steel on a larger scale. Karlholm works thus became one of the most prominent producers in the region. Here, too, there is a very well-preserved works environment, while Karlholm Bay has its own small archipelago with over 60 islands.

Örbyhus Castle, located within the municipal boundaries, is known for a dramatic turning point in Swedish history with the fate of King Erik XIV. He was poisoned while imprisoned in the castle. The event is an example of the power struggles that took place and shaped the political landscape of the region and the country as a whole. Örbyhus Castle is often named as one of the most beautiful and well-preserved castles in Sweden.

Into modern times, Tierp municipality continues to celebrate its industrial and cultural heritage. Communities once powered by ironworks have



KARLHOLMS BRUK

adapted to new economic and cultural realities, while preserving their historical identity. The works themselves, though no longer in operation, remain as monuments of a region firmly rooted in Swedish history and are used today for cultural events which draw visitors from Sweden and beyond.

The Hållnäs peninsula is an area where tradition and cultural heritage intertwine with the scenic landscape. According to a local saying, "The people of Hållnäs have never starved", reflecting the area's long tradition of combining farming with fishing. This gave the inhabitants a distinctive capacity to adapt and survive even at times when the harvest failed, since they always had the fishery to fall back on. Local life here has retained many traditions which provide an insight into the historic way of living, still celebrated through local crafts, music and festivities where visitors can experience and buy local products and crafts. Such events are important for understanding and appreciating the rich cultural heritage that characterises Tierp municipality.



ÖRBYHUS SLOTT

Another fascinating chapter in the municipality's history is the discovery of "Tierp Woman", a prehistoric burial whose well-preserved grave provided new insights into the life and customs of early Nordic societies. The discovery recently featured in a public service TV production called "The History of Sweden" and included unique jewellery and artefacts which provide a glimpse of sophisticated cultural and spiritual splendour in prehistoric times.

As a living link to both the past and the future, Tierp Municipality continues to be a place where history and the present meet.

# THE CULTURAL HERITAGE STAIRCASE

## All students should know their local history

**Tierp municipality wants to make use of its rich cultural heritage and incorporate it in the school education and has started a collaboration with the cultural associations in a project called Kulturarvstrappan (the Cultural Heritage Staircase), a unique initiative to integrate historical and cultural resources in learning. Through the project pupils discover that what they read in history books can actually be found around the corner.**

The project is a cultural heritage programme for primary schools where all pupils visit ten different municipal historical sites a year. In this way, children growing up in Tierp municipality get to know their surroundings and their local environment - step by step.

### **Learning different conditions**

The cultural heritage staircase has been built up over several years by the culture and leisure operations in collaboration with local cultural heritage associations. "There is often focus on global history. With more knowledge of local history, it's easier to understand how conditions differ elsewhere in the world, plus it's important to be able to place your own local history in the context of world history," says Louise Magnusson, Cultural heritage secretary.

### **Cultural heritage guarantee**

The programme is structured in accordance with the curriculum and relates to the different historical periods the students are studying. "The cultural heritage staircase is a cultural heritage guarantee for primary school. The youngest pupils in year one visit Vendel and learn more about the Iron Age. Then they work their way forwards in time," says Louise.

The cultural heritage programme covers the following eras: Vendel, the Viking Era, the Middle Ages, the 18th century, the era of the iron works and right up to the present day.

**”Pupils leave their history books in the classroom and discover that history can actually be found around the corner.**





## HOSPITALITY AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY

*Within the sector of business and industry, we act as a catalyst for change, using innovation and traditions as foundations for sustainable entrepreneurship. Tierp municipality's focus is on developing a sustainable hospitality industry and a strengthened business community that contributes positively to the economy as well as the environment.*

*With 260 kilometres of coastline and large undeveloped areas, the municipality has a responsibility to develop tourist destinations in a way that is viable for the future.*

*Through collaboration, networking and knowledge sharing between local entrepreneurs, associations, agencies and researchers, we can strengthen our collective ability to meet current and future challenges for a sustainable hospitality industry.*

# COLLABORATION AT THE HEART OF SUSTAINABLE HOSPITALITY

## Developing a place based on its buoyancy

**Tierp municipality has many nature destinations in an environment that has been largely free from development. With over 260 kilometres of coastline, marine areas are specifically prioritised and the shoreline is well preserved.**

Together with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management the municipality has mapped nodes, inventoried bays and is working together with a number of actors for more sustainable and ecosystem-based marine management. It is about guiding boats through marked waterways, to inform people not to empty latrines into the sea, or to work for improvements of fish stocks.

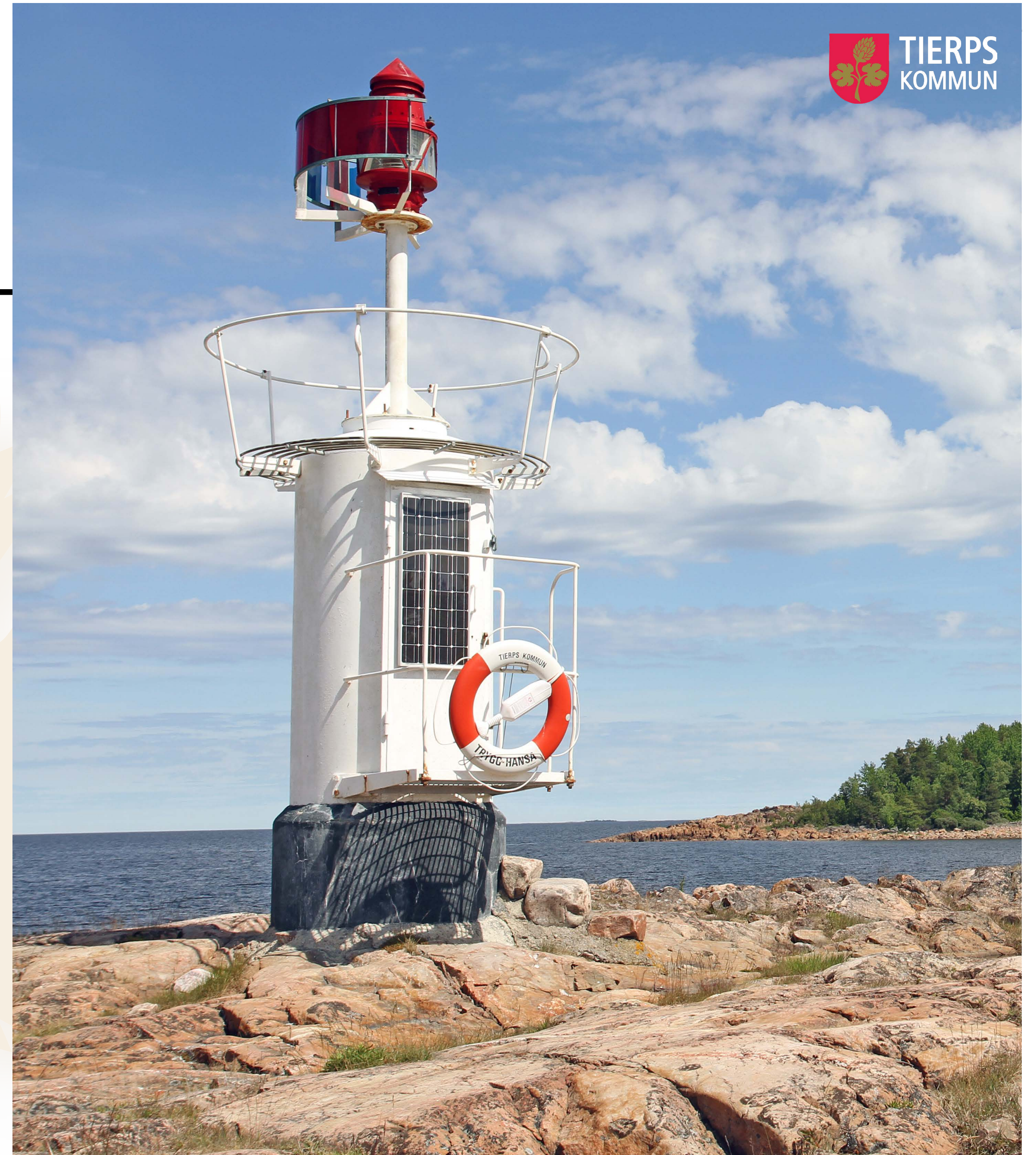
“We don’t want to develop everywhere or show everything, but we want to attract visitors to places

that can take the strain. It’s become easier to work with the Sustainable Development Goals to guide us,” says Lena Wänkkö, coordinator for business and tourism.

The municipality’s coastal areas are under great pressure and there are many interests operating in the area: tourism, fishermen, the armed forces and wind power companies, to name a few. Good collaboration with a range of actors is crucial for sustainable coastal management.

An important actor is the Uppland Foundation that has been active in the county for 50 years. They collaborate with the municipality to promote nature conservation and outdoor recreation. The foundation manages hay meadows that are rich in biodiversity, hiking and canoeing trails and gives information about hidden gems in nature, among many other things.

” *Tierp municipality is appointed biosphere reserve for its unique natural and cultural landscape, add 260 kilometres of coastline and you have a fantastic place to visit!*





### Small-scale local fishery

At Hästkär on the coast of Hållnäs, Lars-Ivan Hållstrand is a third-generation coastal fisherman. Along the coast, Lars-Ivan fishes for herring, salmon, perch, pike and pikeperch. He sells the catch in his shop on Hästkär and once a week he travels into Tierp to sell fresh and processed fish. Lars-Ivan is one of the few remaining coastal fishermen in the county. Like many other fish stocks, the herring has declined sharply in recent years. "We conduct small-scale coastal fishing with very little environmental impact, where we use selective tools to leave the small fish in the sea," says Lars-Ivan. Today, Hållstrands Fisk is Sweden's southernmost fermented herring saltery, and contributes to the country's food culture with its craftsmanship and to the sustainable management of our coasts and seas through its small-scale fishing.

### "Sustainable development is essential"

The municipality has a long history and a strong tradition of nature conservation and cultural protection work in collaboration with agencies, associations and entrepreneurs in the area. The challenges however are many, ranging from attracting more entrepreneurs, to the expansion of high-speed broadband or to more sustainable management of coasts and tourist destinations. "No one wants to visit a place that is ruined – it is our beautiful cultural environments and nature that make the place worth visiting. Sustainable development is essential for the hospitality industry to function," says Lena Wänkkö.

”No one wants to visit a place that is ruined. Sustainable development is essential for the hospitality industry to function.



# SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

## Collaboration and sustainability at the heart of the Norduppland Growth Cluster

**As an active participant in the development of the Norduppland Growth Cluster, Tierp municipality plays a crucial role in shaping the future of our region. In this project, which is still in its initial stages, the focus is not only on strengthening the local business community but also on contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals.**

Tierp Municipality, together with Östhammar Municipality and other partners such as Region Uppsala and the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce in Uppsala County, have set common goals to strengthen the region's long-term competitiveness through sustainable and green business activities.

### 5000 new jobs

Several companies are planning investments in the sustainability transition. With a need of recruiting up

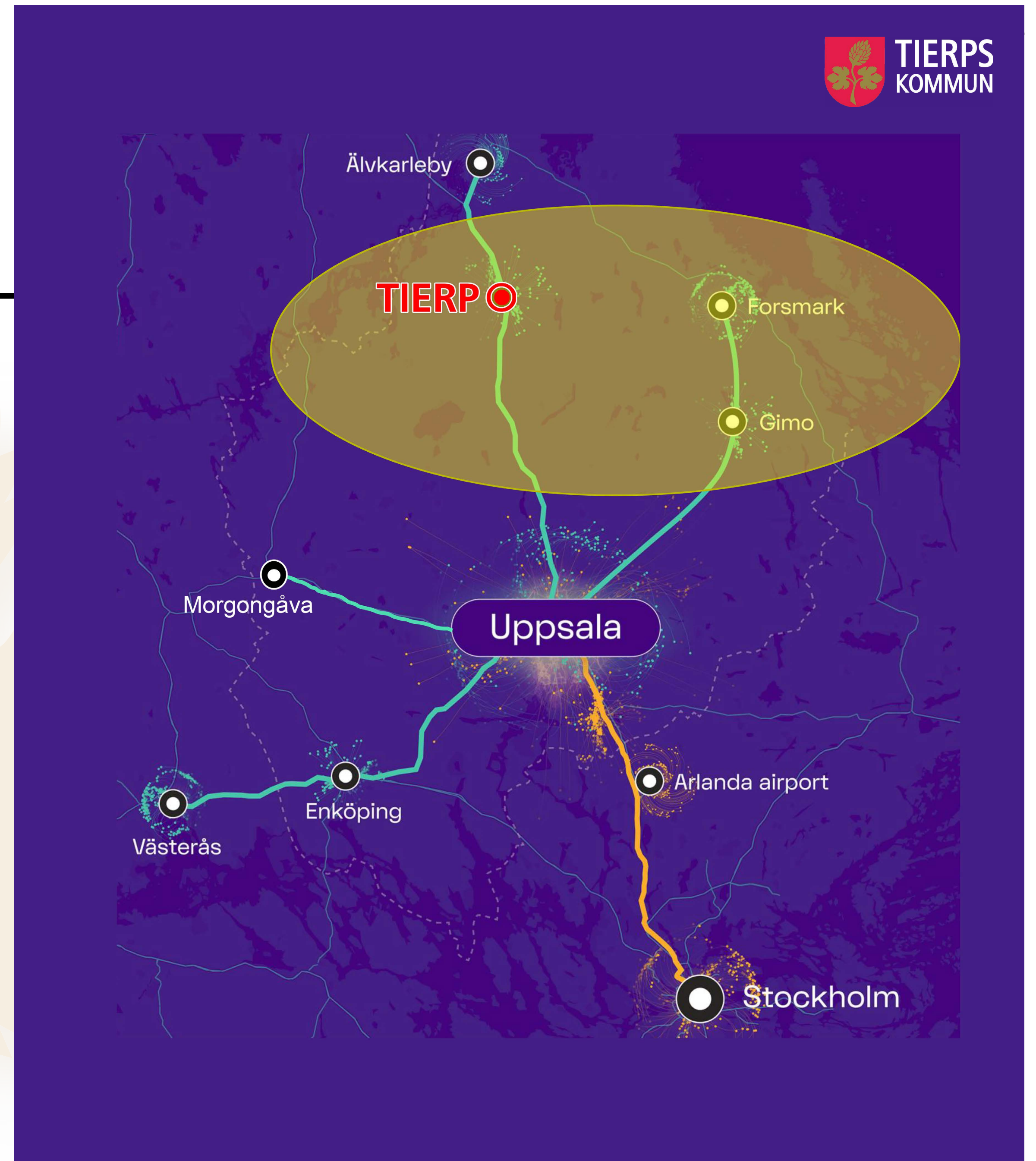
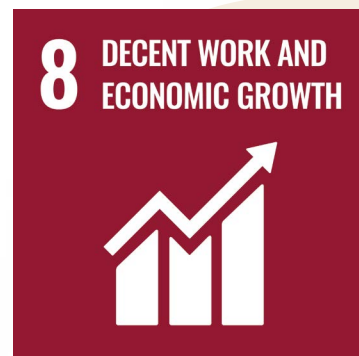
to around 5,000 new jobs by 2035, skills supply and attractiveness of the region is of utmost importance.

A core element of this partnership is to ensure that growth is sustainable. This means investing in green technologies and practices that reduce environmental impact while creating attractive living environments that encourage both current and future generations to live and work in North Uppland.

### Realising our vision

The Growth Cluster initiative is a great example of how collaboration can increase a region's attractiveness and economic strength, while contributing to larger global goals. By focusing on strong, long-term partnerships, we are creating a future where economic growth goes hand in hand with environmental and social progress.

Tierp's involvement in this project is a clear step towards realising our vision of a sustainable society. Through collaboration and innovation, we aim not only to be part of the green transition, but to lead it.



## EMPOWERMENT, PARTICIPATION AND DIALOGUE

*We believe in the power of every encounter and every conversation. Our Sustainable Development Goals work-process is rooted in a constant and active civic dialogue, where we strive not only to listen but also to actively seek out voices from all parts of our society. From workshops and school meetings to town hall meetings and digital platforms, we are continuously looking for new ways to strengthen the ties between the municipality and its citizens.*

*Our endeavour is for everyone in Tierp to feel that they can influence their future and contribute to the well-functioning development of our municipality. With a combination of traditional conversations and new digital tools, from word clouds to interactive maps, we create a process where citizens not only have the opportunity to participate, but also feel that their participation is crucial to our common goals.*

Grupp: 4  
Samtalsledare: Kenneth Karlsson  
Sekreterare: Jessica Falk  
Datum: 20190903

1.2 Uppgift  
Placera ut ytterligare 500 bostäder (5 gula klassar)

Ange den/de orter som klassarna placeras på:

Klass 6 - slutgiltig placering: Skärplunge  
Klass 7 - slutgiltig placering: Skärplunge  
Klass 8 - slutgiltig placering: Tierp  
Klass 9 - slutgiltig placering: Tierp  
Klass 10 - slutgiltig placering: Söderfor

Anteckningar - skriv ner vad gruppen diskuterat under utplaceringen av klassen/klassarna

3 Tierp - Vi måste ha en centralort. Alla åter härifrån  
1 Pendlig  
1 Mönkerbo - närliggande  
1 Skärplunge

Klass flyttas  
1st Från Tierp  
1st Från Tierp  
1st Från Tierp





# CITIZENS' VOICES SHAPE THE FUTURE OF TIERP

Communities are built by and with people

**Since 2015 dialogue meetings with citizens have been held on the municipality's vision, future school development and the development of an urban centre, to name a few. "Involving citizens' opinions in the work is of great importance as they are the ones who are ultimately affected by a Development plan - the physical space is where they live their lives," says municipal architect Adam Nyström.**

When working on a new Development plan, it is common to first develop a proposal to discuss with citizens, but in Tierp in 2018, we did the opposite. The biggest dialogue took place before work on the plan had begun, and community dialogues were held in all towns in the municipality. The dialogues were held in cultural centres, community centres and village halls. A total of nineteen different meetings were held that were very well attended and appreciated. The municipality also met with all secondary schools, the municipality's elderly council and entrepreneurs via a business breakfast. In total, more than 550

people participated in the citizens' dialogue related to the Development plan. Citizens were also asked to consider where in the municipality development should be prioritised. Young people were more concerned about development of the centre of Tierp, older people preferred to prioritise the towns they lived in. Trying to get good representation from different groups is a challenge. "The biggest challenge for us was to reach young adults and families with children. We made a separate invitation to them - but few came. Likewise, people born abroad were under-represented in our dialogues," Adam continues.

**Suggestions become reality**

All the data collected took months to summarise. Now there are reports for each town and for the municipality as a whole, which provide a basis for the Development plan, but also other plans in the municipality.

"In most cases the citizens' suggestions have become reality as they know which areas are suited for development and which to preserve", says Adam.

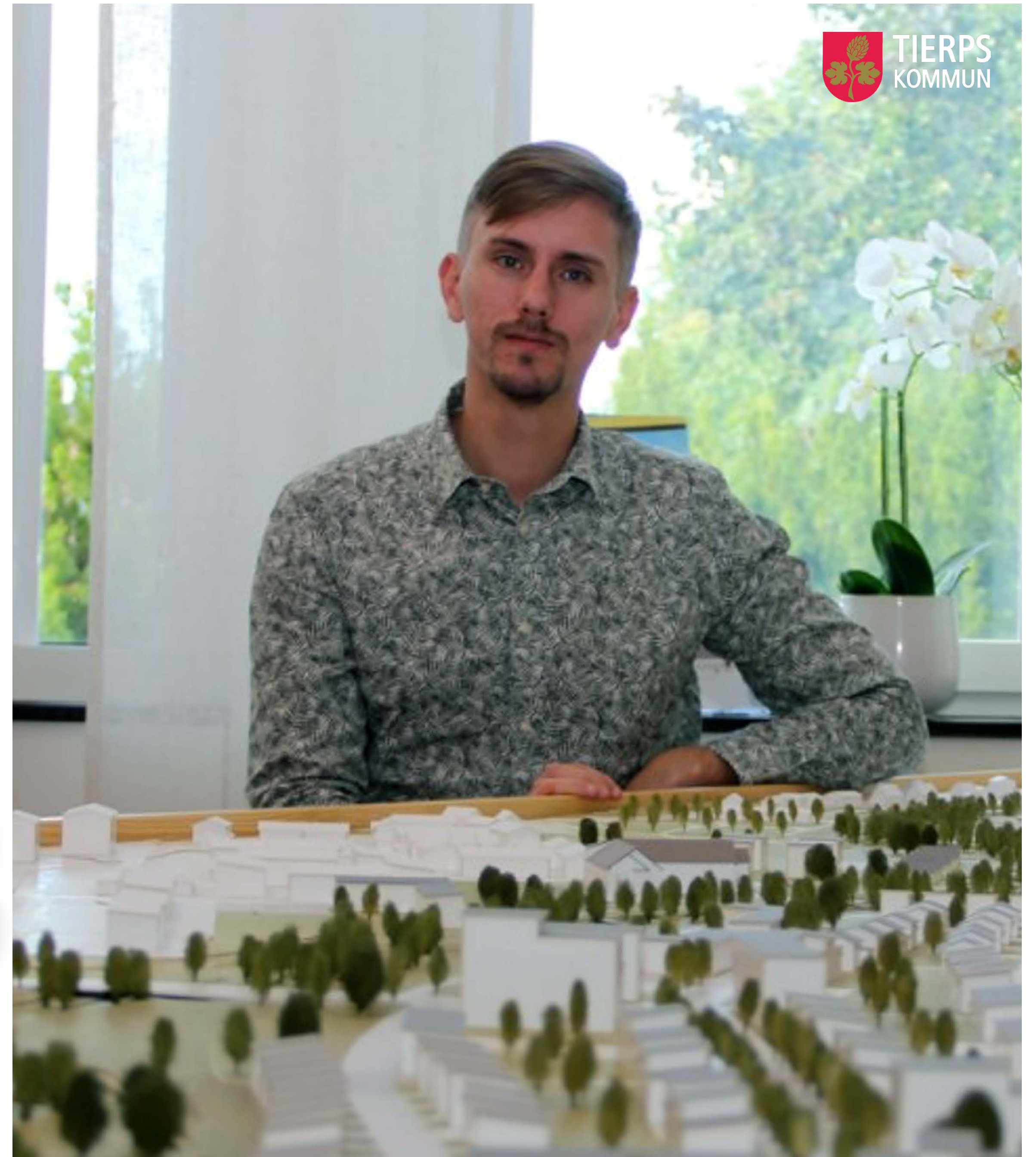
### Conditions differ greatly

Tierp municipality is geographically large and consists of several rural municipalities that merged in the 1970s. The conditions differ greatly, with different soil types in Hållnäs and Vendel providing completely different conditions and affecting the cultural landscape, Adam points out. It's hard to please everyone, but the municipality has tried to make this variety into a strength.

"If we invite people to a citizens' dialogue in the town centre, not many people will come, but if we go out to all the towns in the municipality and want to hear what they have to say, many come," says Adam.

In the short term, citizen dialogue is a tool for politicians to gain insight into how citizens in the municipality think about various issues. It is about collecting and utilising citizens' knowledge and ideas as part of the documentation on which politicians make decisions. In the longer term, the municipality builds resilience by ensuring that important decisions are well grounded among residents and that communication channels exist and are established in the event of a crisis or other urgent social situations.

” *Involving citizens' opinions in the work is of great importance as they are the ones who are ultimately affected by a Development plan - the physical space is where they live their lives.*



# PREVENTING POOR MENTAL HEALTH IN YOUNG PEOPLE

## Involving youngsters in finding solutions

**Giving young people influence is a prioritised issue by Tierp municipality. Tierp has a Democracy commission tasked with developing citizens' dialogue, and they have had a specific focus on involving children and young people in the municipality's development.**

Anna Hällström, community care strategist in the municipality, works among other things on children and young people's mental health. Early on, she realised that the municipality needed to improve its dialogue with young people.



### High prevalence of poor mental health

Tierp and northern Uppland have the highest figures of self-rated poor mental health in the county, according to regional public health surveys. Therefore the municipality has increased resources to promote mental health. In 2023, the municipality enlisted the help of Tilia, a non-profit organisation run by young people working on young people's mental health. "If we were going to do something, we wanted to do it for real. Together with Älvkarleby municipality and Region Uppsala, we were able to use government funding to hire Tilia and work according to their concept to host dialogues with young people about how to promote wellbeing," says Anna. The method is based on letting young people contribute with solutions to their situation themselves. Seventy-five children participated and their proposals ranged from improvements to school and leisure to help and support. "Many of the suggestions were very concrete, such as wanting McDonalds and Biltema in Tierp. We asked the young people follow-up questions about how this would make them feel better, and they concluded that what they really need is somewhere to meet", says Anna. One of the young participants said: "Adults make it so complicated all the time. What we want is not that difficult". Representatives from all groups then had to present their proposals to politicians and officials in the municipality. Several

proposals have now become reality. "One thing that came up was that the young people wanted bus passes during the holidays and not only during term times, to be able to go to activities in different towns throughout the year," says Anna. The local politicians took the proposal to the regional authority and from 2024 all pupils enrolled in school will receive a bus pass that is also valid over the summer. One of the challenges of this work is to reach young people. "We need to integrate questions about wellbeing and mental health into the regular curriculum, for example through sports and health," says Anna.

### The "Young in Tierp"- app

In 2022, a company was hired to develop an app "Ung i Tierp" (Young in Tierp), which gathers information for young people about everything from leisure activities offered by the municipality, to what school meals are served or where to seek help if they feel unwell. In the app, young people are able to access news and have the opportunity to make their voices heard by submitting proposals to the municipality or



participating in a youth panel and giving their views on current issues. After the Tilia project, more young people expressed how important it was to be asked and that they would like to be more involved. "This has made me want to be more involved. If one person dares to take the first step it will influence others to join," says Emilia, one of the young people involved in promoting young peoples' mental health.



## RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL FOOD

*Tierp municipality is a distinctly rural municipality with many farms and businesses operating in the green industries. Hence, it was obvious that the municipality buy locally produced food. Doing so contributes to increased local preparedness, strengthening local economy and local businesses, as well as decreasing the environmental footprint by reducing transports. It also increases awareness of where food comes from and how it is produced as schoolchildren and the elderly can visit the farms where their food comes from.*



# LOCAL FOOD ON THE PLATE

## Making the most of local resources

**Tierp municipality is a rural municipality with many agricultural businesses. For several years, the municipality's operations have been working to serve more local produce in schools, health care and social services. Production manager Jimmy Kjettselberg and head of food operations Fredrik Holmgren have both been involved for a long time.**

Since 2015 Tierp municipality has had a procurement system called the Dynamic Purchasing System (DIS), which is a way of getting more local contractors involved in procurements. The system was developed for building and construction projects. The municipality's food department and procurement unit wanted to test whether it could be used for the municipality's food deliveries. This proved more difficult than anticipated, with farmers showing little interest initially.

The municipality then applied for and received funding from the Swedish Board of Agriculture and a person was employed part time for two years to lead the project, which came to be known as NärMat (CloseFood). Focus was on developing the procurement

system and menus to suit farmers, with the aim of getting more locally produced ingredients into the municipality's operations. "It was a great project where we got to sit down together and talk to the farmers and it resulted in us having several suppliers who are qualified to supply goods to us. Today, three years later, we buy 100% locally produced meat," says Jimmy Kjettselberg.

The idea behind the project is to create a snowball effect: "We inform which farmer supplied the loaf of bread and in this way we hope to get more citizens interested in also buying locally grown food themselves. The farmers take pride in delivering food to the schools," says Jimmy Kjettselberg.

A challenge has been logistics, as farmers risk losing money by traveling long journeys to deliver goods to the municipality. Tierp is a large municipality and the dream, according to Jimmy, is to have a co-loading centre to facilitate for farmers and centralise transport to the municipality's schools and care homes. There are many misconceptions about locally produced food, that it is much more expensive for example. "The meat the municipality buys today actually matches the price of other distributors on the market," says Fredrik.





In addition, buying food from local producers, there are fewer intermediaries and the food operations ensures that everything on an animal is used. "Instead of slaughtering ten cows, the local slaughterhouse can slaughter two cows and we make use of all the parts," says Jimmy. In the summer, the food operations also receives deliveries by bicycle from the labour market operation's greenhouse. "It's a kilo of vegetables here and four kilos there, so we have to be creative in our menus," says Jimmy. They have also bought some apple juice from a local brewery. The municipality has pastures in the nature reserve Florarna and in Örbyhus. The land is let to a farmer from whom the

municipality then can buy meat. Wild boar hunting is another project that the municipality is involved in and runs. Three neighbouring municipalities, Älvkarleby, Östhammar and Tierp, have joined forces with the Swedish Hunters' Association to tackle the increasing wild boar population in the county. During a weekend in November, a wild boar weekend is organised where hunters in North Uppland hunt together and the meat is served in schools and in nursing homes. "In March, we served a wild taco buffet, which was very popular and the children came home and proudly announced that today we ate wild boar," says Jimmy.

” *Three years later, we only buy 100% locally produced beef for example.*



## LONG-TERM NATURE CONSERVATION AND LIVING LANDSCAPES

*We work actively and continuously to ensure that nature is accessible to all. Through well planned initiatives and collaborations we create accessible environments where all citizens can explore and learn. We are developing our neighbourhoods with the objective of both preserving and welcoming, ensuring that our green spaces are open to all regardless of ability. Our vision is to make Tierp's rich nature a place of community and wellbeing, where outdoor activities promote public health and benefits the environment in the long term. The vision is for Tierp municipality to be a gateway to viable nature, now and for future generations.*

# CONSERVATION AND OUTDOOR RECREATION IN COLLABORATION

## Nature should be accessible to all

**Tierp municipality's work on nature conservation and outdoor activities have long been highly ranked. Collaboration with local associations are key to developing visitors' sites and helping people find them.**

Tierp municipality has had a nature conservation policy for a long time that has strengthened the work, and in all Development plans, the municipality has identified large contiguous areas that should remain unexploited. The municipality has also been cautious about granting building permits along the coast. As a result, there is a lot of untouched nature and many hidden gems, places people would not find if the municipality did not recommend visits to them.

"We have fantastic nature in our municipality. Many beautiful bird lakes that all have their own lake associations. We're building birdwatching towers for people to visit, and at the same time we're restoring the lakes to increase biodiversity," says Taija Lindfors, municipal ecologist.

"We also know spending more time in nature promotes wellbeing. We have support in the municipality's Vision and budget stating that there should be natural environments that attract people to spend time and play outdoors," Taija continues.

### Popular areas of recreation

Cooperation is important. The municipality has many active organisations who engage in nature conservation and outdoor activities. They help to develop the sites so that they are welcoming, accessible and pass on information about the destinations locally, so that people find their way there. Taija and Gunilla describe how the associations really look after their areas. Without the associations, the municipality would not be able to keep so many areas open and accessible, and the associations would not be able to do it without the municipality, it is a joint project.

"We've had a canoe trail project, from lake Tämnaaren all the way out to the sea. There are two associations committed to helping us with the maintenance. There has been a surge of people who hire canoes along the route. We also work with the open preschool and Swedish for Immigrants class (SFI) to introduce more people to nature," says leisure steward Gunilla Ström.

” *Tierp municipality ranks highly on nature conservation and outdoor recreation, largely because we collaborate with others.*







Nature areas fulfil other important purposes, for example the storm water treatment ponds in Örbyhus that help manage flood risks in a changing climate have also been turned into recreational areas.

**Important for public health**

The biggest challenges are lack of time and money. Today, there is not enough money to maintain all trails and visitor centres, and at the same time, the municipality wants more people to visit nature.

The municipality's conservation and outdoor recreation work go hand in hand. In the municipally owned forests no-cutting methods are used both to protect ecosystems and to attract visitors. Green spaces in urban areas are also protected and if a tree

has to be removed it is always replaced. Nature near urban centres is very valuable to Taija and Gunilla. It is important for public health and the municipality's ambition is to make it easy to get out into nature by bike, public transport or on foot. "It's important to keep existing nature in towns as well. You can tell that everyone cares about these areas - we're not working against the tide," says Taija.

**Accessibility**

Gunilla would like to see more work on hidden gems in nature - but not all of them should be places to visit. "We need to plan where the fire pit areas and trails are, and make more of them accessible. Everyone should be able to get out into nature," concludes Gunilla.

*”The nature areas have so many purposes, its important we work with all of them.*



# SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

## First school in the country to be certified

**Tierp municipality's adapted upper secondary school for children with special needs was the first in Sweden to be awarded the Swedish National Agency for Education's School for Sustainable Development award.**

The school has also received the municipality's environmental award and been featured in a Swedish radio programme. Headmaster Gunilla Olsson and special needs teacher Frida Nyberg explain how it all began. "The way of working has been around for a long time. We had a former teacher who held a course on cultivation, and how to make use of what you grow. It inspired more of us and made us more aware of sustainability as a whole," says Gunilla Olsson.

### Sustainability teaching

Adapted upper secondary school is four years long and voluntary for pupils with intellectual disabilities who have completed primary school. In Tierp, there are four different vocational programmes. All programmes work with a holistic perspective on sustainability, looking at everything from how materials are used, what they buy and the school environment. In 2021, students at the school started a Junior Achievement Company "Kreativa boden" with focus on recycling. Through contacts with various businesses, they take care of things that the businesses cannot sell or make own products from. The students have organised an

autumn and a spring market at the school, where they sell these recycled things. "We make use of everything at the school and the students have so many ideas. The result is that the markets are well visited which makes the students very proud," says Frida Nyberg.

One success factor has been to weave sustainability work into regular teaching, and link it to the curricula. The school works hard to listen to what the pupils want, but they also engage parents and the wider community. "Pupils should be aware of what is happening in their neighbourhood and what is happening in the world. When the war started in Ukraine, we talked a lot about it and chose to collect clothes and other things. With the help of parents, we ended up with a whole bunch of boxes that we took to the post office and sent off," says Frida.



### Sustainable work life

The school also focuses on the student's sense of self. The pupils reflect on what support they need and naming their needs. It is about creating the conditions for a sustainable working life and their wellbeing.



One way to promote wellbeing is to be in nature. "Many students love to be out in nature. Being outside makes them feel better and calms them down, and at the same time they gain a better understanding of ecology," says Frida.

It can be challenging to work with the student group on complex themes such as the Sustainable Development Goals. The teachers have worked to make it more concrete, like teaching environmental issues by speaking about recycling.

"Some parts are difficult to explain, but with visual support it is usually possible. Not everyone can do everything, but everyone can do something and everyone can participate," says Frida.

### Work in progress

It has also been challenging to show how small things can be important in a larger context. "It's work in progress and you never finish. To keep it alive, the focus has to be on the everyday - it has to be integrated in the daily work," says Frida.

The teachers collaborate across the different programmes, even though the students study different subjects they can let the topic of sustainable development be a uniting force.

"The students have talked a lot about making conscious choices and thinking environmentally, but also a lot about taking care of each other. It has increased the sense of community among the students, they take care of and help each other which feels great," says Frida.



# PRESCHOOLS WITH GREEN FLAGS

## All preschools have sustainability certifications

**In 2024 all preschools in Tierp municipality were granted sustainability certifications according to the Green Flag methodology. "The dialogue with children is an important part of the work and it is an advantage to start early with their questions," says headmaster Carina Ederyd.**

The green flag implies that all work and learning in the preschool is focused on sustainable development based on the 2030 Agenda. The children have gained knowledge and become more involved in gender equality issues, waste management and the importance and value of good health. "It's a really fun and important job. We have been good at integrating it into the ordinary work of the preschools, and today we link all the curriculum objectives to the Sustainable Development Goals," says Carina Ederyd, headmaster for one of Tierps preschool areas.

### Many questions

Each preschool chooses which goals they want to work on during the year. The staff have flag councils where they meet every month to discuss their work and how things are going. An important part is that the preschool also have children's councils where children can have a say what they are interested in and what places they want to visit. Parents are also involved through parent councils where the teachers inform

about what is being done.

"They often have many questions and thoughts about how to be involved, if planet Earth is doing well and what footprints we are leaving", says Carina.

### Strengthens teaching

According to Carina, one challenge is that it can be difficult to get everyone on board. The staff on the flag councils are very involved, but it is important to reach the other parts of the staff group as well. That requires a lot of work. It should be be natural to everyone to be involved in green flag and to see that it strengthens teaching. It is a work in progress and to continue being certified, the preschools must work continuously year around.

» *Green flagg has made the work with these issues easier and more fun for both children and the staff.*



The children at Regnbågen preschool have recycled jigsaw puzzles. It's a good way of teaching children to think about sustainability.



At Mehedeby preschool the teachers have worked according to the green flag methodology for many years. This year the children and teachers have chosen to focus on the theme of the Sea and water.

# INCREASING GOAL ATTAINMENT OF NEWLY ARRIVED AND MULTILINGUAL CHILDREN

**Goal attainment of newly arrived children has fallen in Tierp municipality and the proportion of pupils who achieved the knowledge requirements in year 9 has decreased. Tierp is one of the few municipalities in the country to take a holistic approach and involve all school districts to work with a language development approach to turn the negative trend.**

Katrin Friman is a quality coordinator in education and works to strengthen the learning of newly arrived and multilingual children. She coordinates a three-year project, in collaboration with the Swedish National Agency for Education and Uppsala University, increasing equivalency in education. "Focusing on language- and skilldevelopment teaching can give pupils the courage



to express themselves and contributes to better goal attainment in many subjects. Multilingualism facilitates communication with more people and knowledge about different cultures," says Katrin.

Katrin emphasises that this benefits all pupils as it is an approach of working and relating to them. "Language and skill development work benefits all children. Children from families with low educational background or without exposure to reading may have challenges with language." says Katrin.

### Mother tongue as a resource

According to the Swedish National Agency for Education, a new arrival is a pupil who has been in Sweden for up to four years, and multilingual pupils have another mother tongue than Swedish. In total, 188 pupils were counted as newly arrived in Tierp in 2023, and 283 pupils study Swedish as a second language.



Katrin has produced an expectations document that describes what the work means in practice – it links the language and skill development approach to values and respect. "It's about seeing the pupils' mother tongue as a resource in teaching. Previously, no one let the pupils count in their own mother tongue, they could count, but just not in Swedish. Having difficulties with the language implies challenges in learning other subjects too, but it does not have to be that way. It shouldn't just be the Swedish teachers who work with new arrivals' language, it must be the responsibility of the whole school," says Katrin.

Twelve language developers have been trained to supervise staff at the schools. They are teachers who have set aside time for this. Now the plan is to involve the pupils in focus groups. "It's important to see the whole picture, the whole chain of command, that the management team is also involved. They receive the same information and training and everyone wants to move in the same direction. We now see that school results are on the way up for the target group – and they are on their way of having better grades than other pupils," says Katrin.



# FOCUS ON CHILDREN

## Social services' prevention work for children and young people

**Many children grow up in low-income households in Tierp and in recent years, there has been a sharp increase in the amount of reports of concern regarding children to Social services. Challenges related to children's health and the conditions in which they grow up are many and the municipality is increasingly focusing its resources on prevention.**

Linda Isaksson Vestberg is the head of unit and talks enthusiastically about all its activities. These include open preschools, meeting points, children's groups, family counselling and meeting places for parents. "We're working more preventatively today, offering more open initiatives. The hub is an open preschool, where we now have many professionals on site, such as family counsellors, to identify families who need support," says Linda.

### Drop-in counselling

A new feature introduced by the organisation is drop-in counselling for parents who need support. These sessions have been full so demand is high. "It can be parents who need help with setting boundaries,

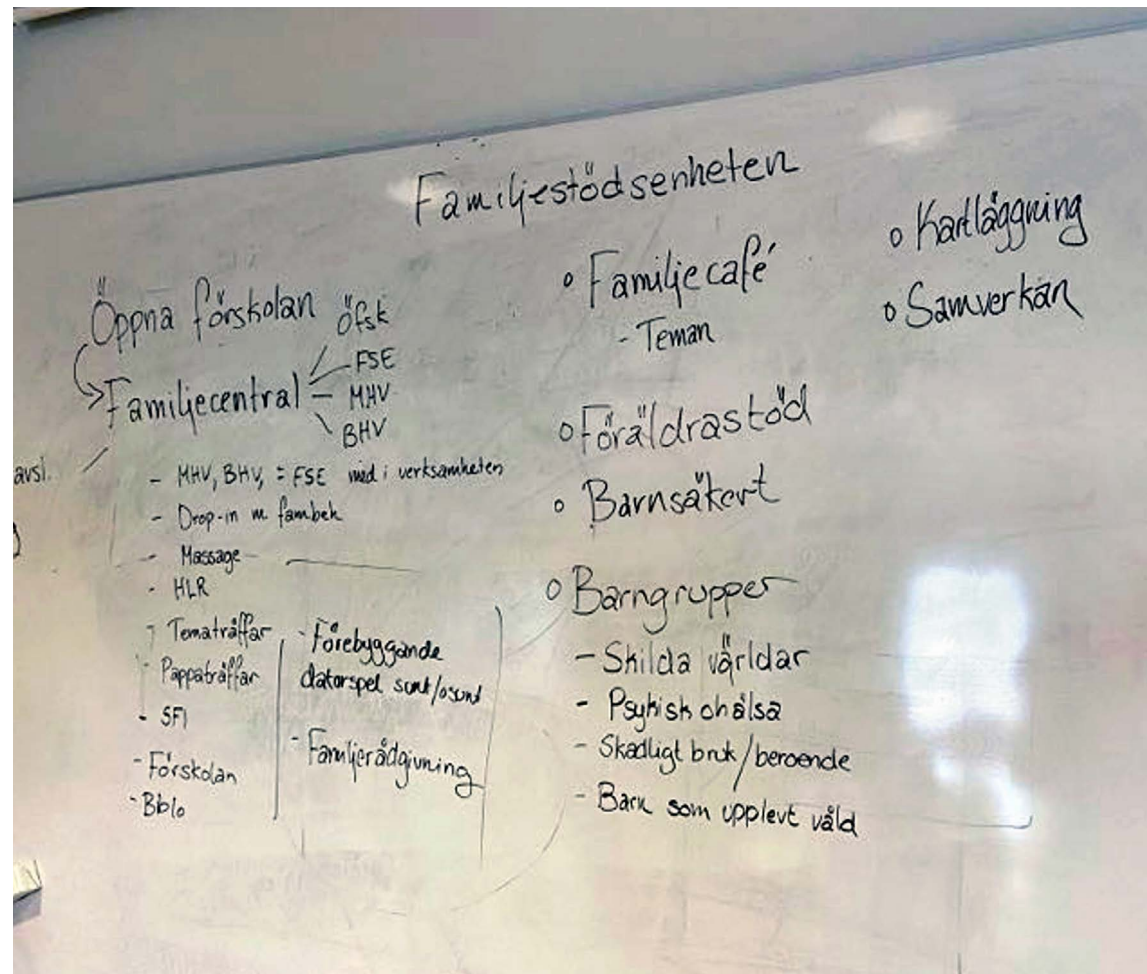
step parents worried about the child's relation to the biological parent or getting help dealing with anger," says Therese Campell, a family therapist at the unit.

The unit also runs a family café focusing on parents with cognitive difficulties and mental illness. Some families have been coming for several years. Tierp municipality has had a support group programme for disabled parents and their children for a long time, an initiative that has been described as unique in the world. In 2005, a grant was received from the General Inheritance Fund to in collaboration with the Association for Mentally Disabled Children and Young People and Adults (FUB) support families with parents who have a developmental or intellectual disability.

### Listen to the parents

Linda describes how important it is to collaborate and listen to what the parents need and want. At the open preschool, open meetings are organised on topics like being a young parent or problematic school attendance. The unit collaborates with Swedish for immigrants that runs courses in the open preschool and the library to encourage early reading and language training.





Linda is particularly proud of the children’s groups that started two years ago. Today, there are groups for children of parents with mental health problems, children of parents with substance abuse and addiction and children who have experienced violence.

“The children think it’s great to see others, they never want to go home. One 8-year-old girl said she thought she was all alone,” says Therese. “We work to alleviate children’s shame and guilt. The preventive work is so incredibly important for the children, to break the spiral and break with the negative social context. The children’s rights become so clear - they learn to set their own boundaries,” Therese continues.

The family support unit also has an advice and support service office with family counselling. They deal with domestic violence, supporting both victims and perpetrators of violence. The unit also works with outreach, informing about activities and trying to decrease the stigma of getting help.

### Motivating parents

The biggest challenge is to motivate the families. “It’s about having the energy or finding the time to come.”

Linda sees many advantages being a smaller unit where everyone knows each other. “We do everything in one unit, we are four different professions working closely together - we can take the families by the hand and walk them across to the next room. It’s not us and them - it’s our families,” says Linda.

Linda and Therese also describe an increasingly tough situation for children and families today. There are many parents suffering from mental illness and children who are unwell and become truants. The school environment has become tougher and there are fewer chances given to those who do not complete compulsory school.

### Social media

Something that often comes up is the use of social media and that everything has to be perfect. “Parents are spending less time with their children now. It’s so important to spend time with your children - maybe you don’t trust your own parenting skills – but there’s so little that’s needed and that’s where we can make a difference,” says Therese.

The municipality sees the benefits of prevention work and Linda says they see that it is paying off. The working group is creative and listens to needs. “Of course we have even more things we would like to do, but now it’s about consolidating all the good things that are already being done,” Linda concludes.

” *We work to alleviate children’s shame and guilt. The preventive work is so incredibly important for the children, to break the spiral and break with the negative social context.*



# INCREASING SENCE OF COHERENCE

## Digital tools for people with cognitive disabilities

**In 2021, Tierp municipality embarked on a project developing a tool to increase digital inclusion for people with a cognitive disability. Together with four other municipalities and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, Tierp carried out an innovation procurement to develop a tool for increased digital inclusion.**

Many people experience a cognitive disability at some point in their lives. It can be congenital or acquired by dementia, a brain injury or being exposed to something traumatic which causes cognitive functions to deteriorate. Immigrants who do not yet understand the language can also experience it. In the 1990s, sociologist Aaron Antonovsky coined the concept and model Sense of Coherence (SOC; KASAM in Swedish). The model states that a person's wellbeing is dependent on their understanding of the context in which they live and they need personal resources or help to deal with things arising in the context.

### Digital tools

"Today, many people lack a sense of coherence and we wanted to try to change that by developing digital solutions that can be customised to help the user, says Mikaela Lindström, developer in the Care department.

During the project, several workshops were held around Sweden with adults who have a cognitive disability, from pensioners to newly arrived immigrants who discussed how to strengthen their sense of coherence. In Tierp, a workshop was held with the adapted upper secondary school for young people with disabilities. The pupils had ideas about work and housing, for example which jobs they could aim for with some help and support. Many young people contributed in the development of the digital tools to improve usability. The work is still under development but today there is an app and the KASAM portal. It includes a calendar function based on image support and colour codes used by the school.

The KASAM portal also contains guides from Swedish authorities, explaining how to navigate them. An AI system can translate the information into several languages. Your personal settings, for example based on your cognitive needs becomes a filter that facilitates everything you follow in the portal.





### Understanding the world around you

Mikaela says that it's hard to change preconceived ideas, which is particularly evident among vulnerable groups. "If you don't understand the world around you, it becomes a big obstacle. More things in our society should be better adapted and explained - it would be better for everyone", says Mikaela. The project has been delayed due to difficulties in finding a

supplier. It is rare to do these kinds of procurements, to develop something that is not yet available.

"The portal has been purchased and all citizens in Tierp municipality can log in to it. It's a unique procurement process and we hope that more municipalities and companies will join in," Mikaela concludes.

**”** *If you don't understand the world around you, it becomes a big obstacle. Our digital tool seeks to counteract that.*





# HEALTH TALKS WITH ELDERLY

## Meeting all 80-year-olds in the municipality

**In 2023, all 80-year-olds in the municipality were offered a home visit and a conversation about health promotion, a "health talk". The aim of the initiative is to prevent ill health and, as far as possible, support the elderly to maintain an active and independent life.**

All citizens turning 80 in 2023 received a letter offering a health talk. Using a broad questionnaire about health, life situation and loneliness we try to capture as much as possible about the situation of the elderly. The 80-year-olds were selected as many start needing help at that age.

"Most of the people I met were alert and active. Some were in early stages of dementia and some experienced loneliness," says Hanna Hellerstedt, project manager.

The outreach programme also aims to help identify older people who are experiencing involuntary loneliness and offer social activities and counselling. In total, 69 letters were sent and a majority accepted the offer of a talk. According to Hanna, one challenge is to know whether those who have accepted a health talk session are those who are fit and able to receive visits. There may be 80-year-olds in a poorer life situation

that the municipality does not reach. Questions were asked about mental and physical health, suicide, alcohol, falls in the home, domestic violence and involuntary loneliness.

The number of elderly people in the municipality will increase significantly in the years to come. It is important to give them information early on about what support is available. Hanna particularly emphasises fall prevention work, which saves much suffering as well as expenses for authorities. During the conversations, questions were asked that could be perceived as sensitive. Hanna describes how important it is to explain why certain questions are asked and to defuse them.

"It is important to try to be as compassionate as possible. The questions about alcohol were often sensitive and loneliness is stigmatised. Several people have also contacted me afterwards, when they have had time to reflect and know what to ask for so I can help them."





### Life stories

Hanna says that many things bubble up when you speak to an 80-year-old. Many start reflecting on their lives and life stories emerge. Many also think about their life situation today, about moving into elderly care or whether they can stay at home with the right help. Several want help with gardening or putting up curtains, for example. Hanna and her colleagues are now working to make the project a permanent part of the existing health and social care organisation.

“It’s been incredibly fun, you feel so appreciated. I’ve had so much coffee and I haven’t eaten so many different kinds of cakes and pastries in my life,” laughs Hanna.

» *I’ve had so much coffee and I haven’t eaten so many different kinds of cakes and pastries in my life.*



# BECOMING PART OF SOCIETY

## Integration initiatives for third-country nationals

**Becoming a part of Swedish society can be a long and difficult process. Malin Byman works with people who want to participate in activities furthering integration. Many of the participants have struggled to learn Swedish or have lived here for a few years but have not found work. Her mission is to increase knowledge about Sweden and Swedish society.**

It all started when the municipality applied for and received money from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). "There have not been many activities for this target group in Tierp before, no natural meeting places to come and ask questions or get help," says Malin.

### Activities and courses

Malin and her colleague organise courses on how to apply for jobs, handling computers or health. Participants have many questions from how to get a job, how to find a new flat or what activities are available for their children. They also organise various

activities such as craft meetings in cooperation with the culture- and leisure department where participants can meet other Swedes, and share practical knowledge and skills from their home countries. An important part of the project is that everything is voluntary, and not linked to financial assistance or a decision from the social services. The language training provided to participants has been one of the success factors. "Many are reliant on having an interpreter. The first meeting is always with an interpreter, but after that we go without and we notice that many people dare to open up more and speak Swedish. In the beginning, they are afraid to make mistakes or that someone will laugh at them," says Malin.

The project is aimed at third-country nationals, non EU-members. The youngest participant is 16 years old and the oldest 67. In total 57 people have enrolled in the project and the response has been very positive. At times, there has been too much demand so they have had to pause the intake to the project. The gender split is 60 per cent women and 40 per cent men, due to the fact that many women lack education or work experience.





### Everyone wants to get a job

“Many of our women have not worked in their home country, and have paused their language studies due to parental leave. Almost all of them want to get a job; they do not enjoy sitting at home. It also helps that the project employees are women and can be good role models,” says Malin.

A challenge for the municipality is that Tierp has a small labour market. Most jobs require education and experience. Another challenge is the different backgrounds of the individuals. The reasons why many are stuck and do not progress in language studies can be stress related, due to residence status, trauma from the past or mental or physical ill health. Having a person who can guide them, accompany them on visits to the authorities or help them get a first contact is extremely important, according to Malin.

One success factor has been the good collaboration in the municipality, between Swedish for immigrants, the labour market unit, the culture and leisure operations, the school and many associations such as Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU) or

the Upplands Foundation. The project is still ongoing and not yet fully evaluated, but the results so far are good. Several participants have continued into further education or gotten work.

### Learning Swedish

“We also see a lot that cannot be measured. Many have developed their Swedish language skills enormously. Several who were shy to talk to new people can now ask questions and dare to open up and seek help with things,” says Malin.

Some participants had a fear of authorities and social services. The project has visited both family counsellors and open preschools to provide information, but also to show that behind the authorities there are ordinary people who are there to help.



# DISTRICT HEATING AND TREATMENT PLANTS

## TEMAB take the lead on sustainability

**The municipal company Tierps energi och miljö AB (TEMAB) was first in the country to introduce full-scale pharmaceutical treatment in one of their water treatment plants. The company also since a few years deliver completely fossil-free district heating.**

TEMAB is responsible for water and wastewater, sanitation, streets and parks, and district heating. In 2018, the company applied for funding from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency to develop its work on cleaning wastewater from pharmaceuticals. Using sand filters, ozone and activated carbon, they can reduce the levels of pharmaceutical residues that reach the municipality's waterways. The work has had considerable effect. "For some chemicals, we see a reduction of over 90 per cent. That is 25kg of pharmaceuticals removed every year. We were early adopters and that's why a large part of the investment was funded, but I think this will become a legal requirement in the future," says Tomas Ulväng is the CEO of TEMAB.

### Challenges for all municipalities

Pharmaceutical substances in nature have a harmful effect on waterways and ecosystems, even in small doses. The substances consist of normal medications such as anti-depressants, antihistamines and blood pressure lowering medicine. Several waterways and

lakes in the municipality are subject to environmental toxins and few are classified as having good ecological status. This is a challenge for the majority of Swedish municipalities. The new treatment method has lived up to expectations, however the high cost of electricity in recent years has been a challenge. They had to switch off the treatment for a period when the price of electricity was high.

### Fossil free district heating

The company is also responsible for district heating in the municipality which heats the majority of its households. For a few years now it is completely fossil-free. Before that, regular diesel was used for peak heating, for example in the mornings when many people want to use hot water at the same time, but now fossil-free diesel (hydro treated vegetable oil, HVO) is used instead. It was a simple transition where no investment was required, only maintenance and replacement of hoses and filters.

### Collaboration with local entrepreneurs

District heating is fuelled by renewable waste products from forestry in the form of wood chips, where raw materials as far as possible are sourced from local entrepreneurs. "We cooperate with local contractors, farmers and foresters. This is important from a sustainability perspective, as we want the local industry to live and we have a lot of forest in the municipality.



It is also important from a preparedness perspective. When energy prices went up and it was harder to find raw materials, the local contractors were able to deliver more than they had promised," says Tomas.

The company is very involved in preparedness and security work. The renewable diesel is not only used as backup power for the plants but also for the company's vehicles. The company is currently

investigating the possibility for a carbon dioxide capture and storage facility and has plans to start up its own electricity production. "If we can produce electricity we should, it makes us less dependent on price fluctuations. It also strengthens our preparedness as we must be able to run the plants in the event of a crisis," concludes Tomas.



# DELIVERING GOODS TO MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

**People with disabilities in Sweden can enrol in daily activities organised by the municipality in accordance with the Swedish Act concerning support and service for persons with certain functional impairments. In Tierp, the Office and delivery unit carry out daily activities where tasks range from receiving orders, packing goods, dividing them up, invoicing and delivering.**

Work supervisor Madeleine Andersson explains the many advantages of all the municipality's operations ordering consumables through them. It is less costly for the municipality when we can place large orders and stock goods.

Until now, deliveries have been made by car, even for the smallest parcels such as a packet of pens. In 2023, the unit received the municipality's yearly climate offsetting allocation, to buy bicycles with room for deliveries. "It's more convenient by bike. Sometimes it is even quicker than by car. In addition, it is exercise during work hours and there are no emissions," say Robin and Andreas who are employees of the unit.



# PROCUREMENT AS A TOOL FOR TRANSITION

**Every year, the municipality buys goods for millions of Swedish kronor but delivering sustainable goods and services is a challenge.**

In the procurement process, Tierp municipality has implemented on environmental requirements for transports, buying recycled products and setting social requirements to facilitate hiring people who have been unemployed for many years. Procurement manager Ulf Sandell highlights the new contract of recycled phones: "We save a couple of thousand kronor per phone

and then get a recycled phone that is better for the environment and increases the life span of the product."

The municipality has long been working with a method called 'Dynamic Purchasing System' for smaller contracts such as building a recycling station or a playground. It is a way for the municipality to get smaller and local contractors involved in procurement. It has other positive effects, such as strengthening the local business community and creating more jobs locally. It also has the potential of decreasing emissions due to shorter transports.



# SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS IN VIEW OF POLITICAL DECISIONS

**In 2022, a method for doing sustainability analyses prior to major political decisions was introduced in the municipality. The method builds on Falkenberg municipality's analysis tool with the 17 SDGs as a base.**

Over 100 employees, administrators and managers have received training on the Sustainable Development Goals and on using the tool in order to carry out

sustainability analyses continuously in their work.

The model helps to visualise synergies between goals and which SDGs that are affected positively or negatively by a proposed decision. The analysis clarifies potential conflicts of interest and it provides politicians and civil servants a tool for making well-founded decisions and taking measures to mitigate negative effects of a project or decision.

# FOSSIL FREE FLEET BY 2030

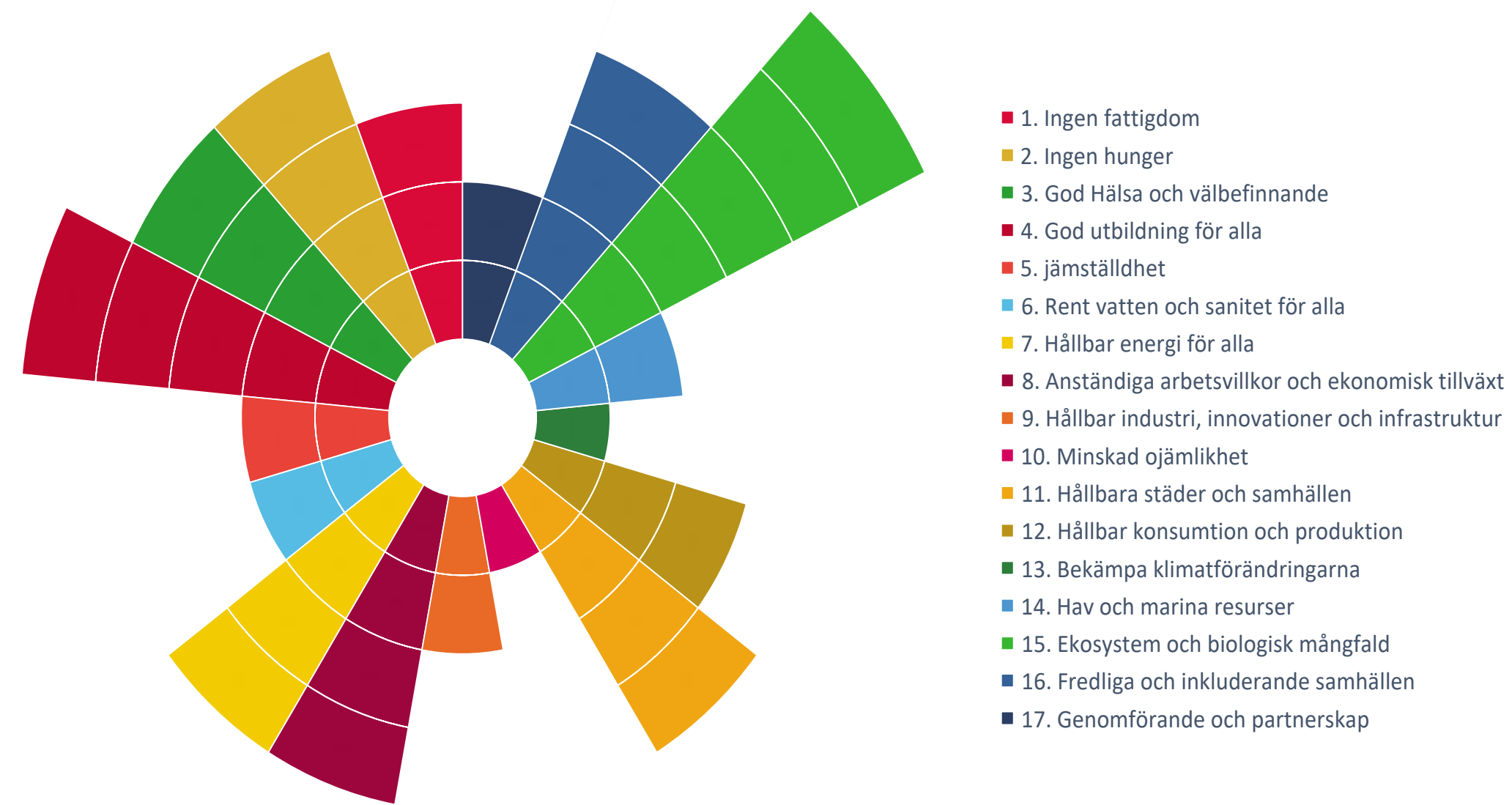
**The production of electricity and heat in Tierp is already fossil-free. The biggest challenge now is transport, which is why the municipality entered the Fossil-free 2030-transport challenge in 2018.**

The transition to electric vehicles and setting up more charging stations for electric cars is in full swing. It has been challenging, says Moa Lindholm, who is coordinating the work of the municipality.

“There have been a lot of internal processes around procurement, ownership, how to run charging stations, and whether we use the vehicles in the best way. New technology requires new ways of working and several practical issues around charging and driving range have arisen, which we are working to solve,” says Moa.

In addition, work is underway to make it easier for residents to travel sustainably. Several cycle paths are underway, and many train stations have extended car and bicycle parking with roofs and charging stations to get more people using public transport.

In 2023, the municipality's travel policy was revised to encourage more people choosing digital meetings, public transport or car-pooling for essential journeys. A climate-offsetting scheme was introduced, where a sum is set aside for each air travel made. These sums yearly make up the climate offsetting allocation that the municipal operations can apply money from to finance new initiatives that can reduce environmental impact.



# LOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

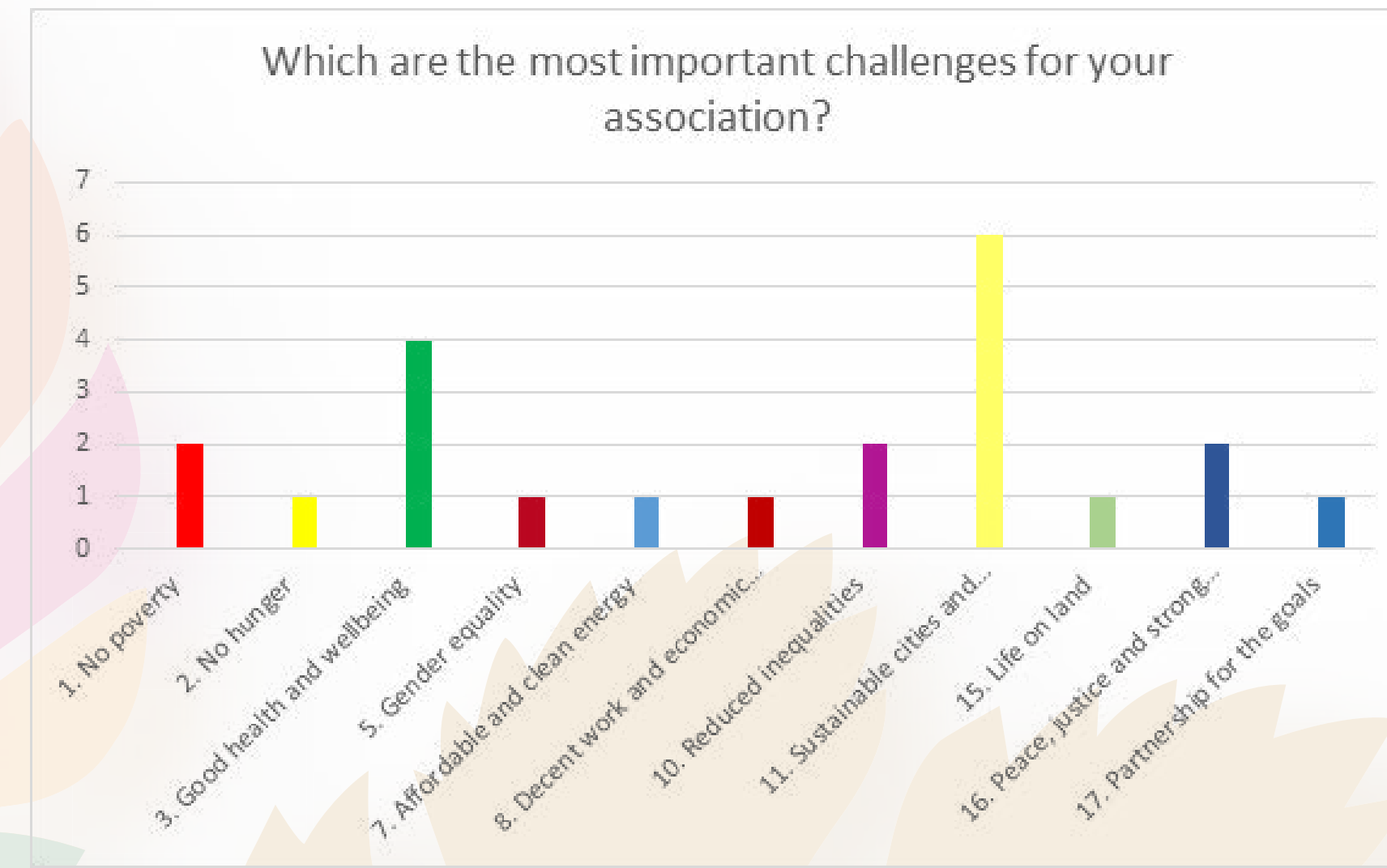
## Strengthening collaboration for greater sustainability

**A strong, committed and functioning civil society is important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Civil society contributes knowledge and innovation, gives a voice to those who are not usually heard and runs a wide range of activities in the municipality.**

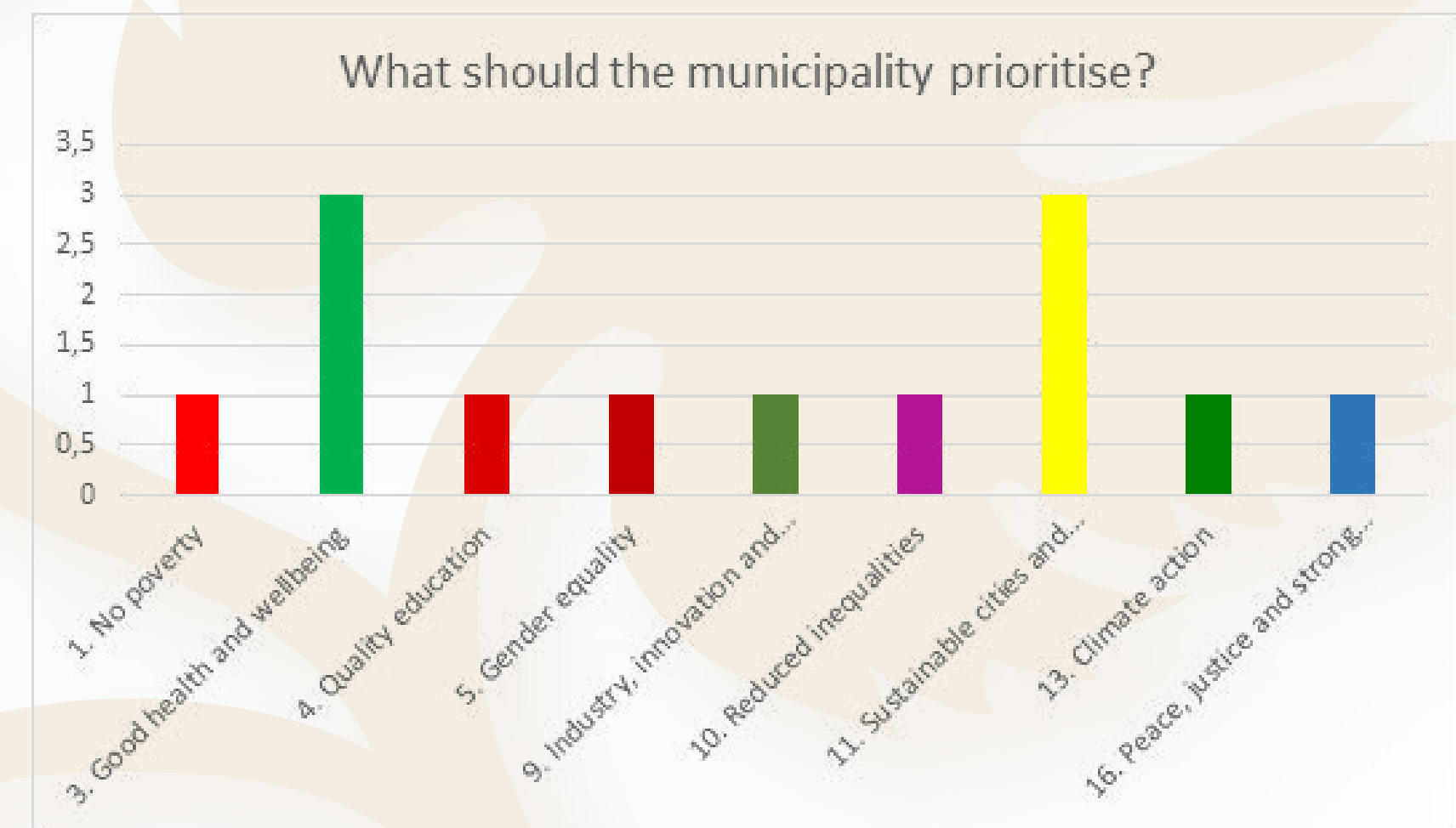
To strengthen collaboration, a local agreement between the municipality and civil society was adopted in 2022. The aim of the agreement is to create consensus, trust and confidence by clarifying conditions of collaboration. The local agreement is based on the SDGs and our local sustainability challenges. So far, around 50 associations have signed it.

In spring 2024, the municipality invited civil society to a meeting on sustainable development. Around 30 associations took part. We discussed the challenges faced by the associations and society at large. The associations were tasked to prioritise which SDGs they find most difficult to achieve, which SDGs they contribute to achieving and which goals they want the municipality to prioritise.

The social goals were in focus as the municipality is faced with challenges that also affect civil society organisations. Several associations highlighted challenges relating to language, inclusion and social support, where they would like more support from the municipality. Access to premises at good rates was mentioned as a major problem. Other issues raised was how collaboration can be strengthened and how to get more people involved in civil society.



Civil society saw Good Health and Wellbeing as well as Sustainable Cities and Communities as goals with the greatest challenges. Challenges related to co-operation with the municipality, finances and membership issues were also mentioned.



The associations want the municipality to prioritise Good Health and Wellbeing and Sustainable Cities and Communities, but a large number of other objectives were also named. The discussions mentioned the importance of inclusive activities and working to improve mental health. Several associations also emphasised access to housing and good communications, as well as access to premises and meeting places for associations.



# BUSINESS AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

## Building growth that lasts over time

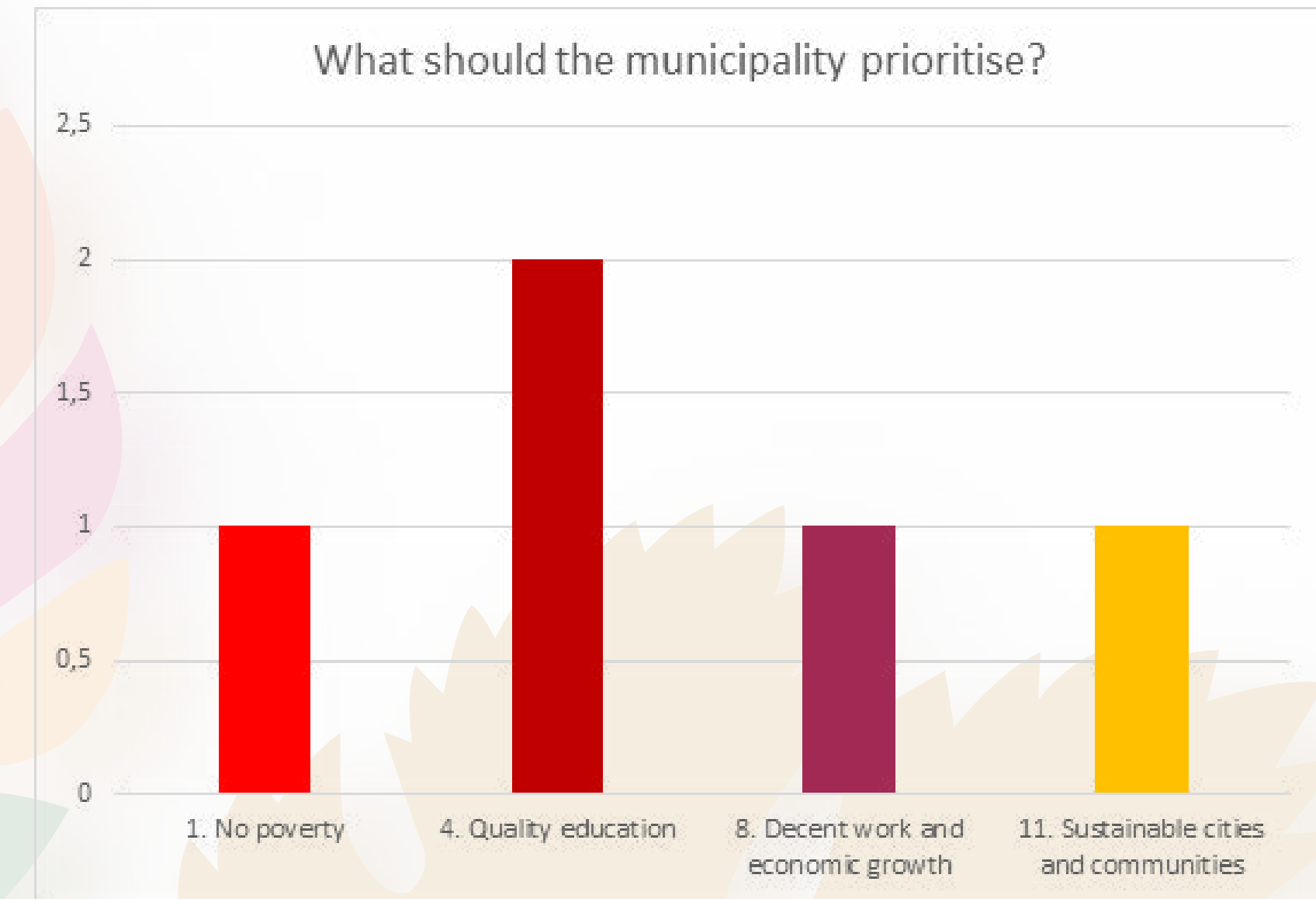
Tierp municipality has a long industrial tradition. A tradition that is still alive through a large number of successful companies. Most of them are small businesses, but several are medium-sized companies in various fields of activity such as industrial technology and the steel industry. A range of companies is an asset for the entire municipality as it forms the basis of our labour market as well as business community.

The municipality organises monthly Business Breakfasts and the first one in 2024 was on the theme of sustainability. The focus was attraction and growth - how do we create sustainable growth together that lasts over time? Tierp municipality has a private

sector with potential growth opportunities. However, challenges such as skills supply, health among young people, climate change, crime and crisis preparedness can have major impacts on the business community.

Some thirty companies attended the Business Breakfast to discuss how we can work together for sustainable development and growth throughout the municipality. The companies were asked to prioritise which SDGs they see as the biggest challenges, which goals their companies contribute to and which goals they want the municipality to prioritise going forward.

The attending companies felt that they were contributing to most of the SDGs, with the biggest challenges ranging from housing shortages, to skills supply, to increased mental health problems in society. The most important issue that businesses want the municipality to prioritise is good education for all.



Good education for all is important in order to be an attractive municipality to move to, but also to solve the skills supply challenge facing many businesses. Other important issues for businesses were reducing poverty and exclusion, strengthening growth and infrastructure such as more housing, rentable premises, land and good transport connections.

## Vad kan vi samarbeta mer kring för att lösa hållbarhetsutmaningarna?

46 responses



On the question "What issues do we need to collaborate on more to work for sustainability", the supply of skills was highlighted as the most important challenge where the municipality and the business community must collaborate more. Other important issues concerned improving collaboration itself, spreading good examples of sustainability initiatives, more housing and better procurement processes.





# NO POVERTY

## End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Sweden has a high standard of living and a well-developed social protection system. However, income inequality is steadily increasing. Parts of the population have scarce financial resources compared to the average. Municipalities' responsibility for social support and care implies that people living in economic vulnerability can seek assistance. Tierp municipality has adopted a local target to reduce the proportion of adults and children living in financial vulnerability.

Financial assistance is society's social safety net. In Tierp municipality, 443 people received financial assistance in 2023. The proportion has decreased in recent years, but in Tierp, a higher proportion of those receiving financial assistance receive long-term assistance compared to other municipalities (see Diagram 1.1). In spite of a weak economy, the total costs of income support has decreased in recent years in Tierp. Unemployment rates are also lower than in a very long time. In 2023, Tierp municipality reported a total average annual unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent. In terms of absolute numbers, 659 out of 10 138 residents aged between 16 and 65 in Tierp municipality were registered as jobseekers.

### Future challenges

The challenges in Tierp municipality include reducing the income gap between women and men, since women's median income, as share of men's median income was 78 per cent in 2022. Reducing the amount of people requiring financial assistance is also a priority as living with limited economic resources affects health status and participation in society. Specific focus should be on vulnerable groups such as families with children, people with disabilities and people born abroad. There is an increase in the share of children living in low economic standard households, which is worrying as it can affect their opportunities later in life. Many of the challenges related to poverty in Tierp are also linked to Goal 10 on reducing inequalities.

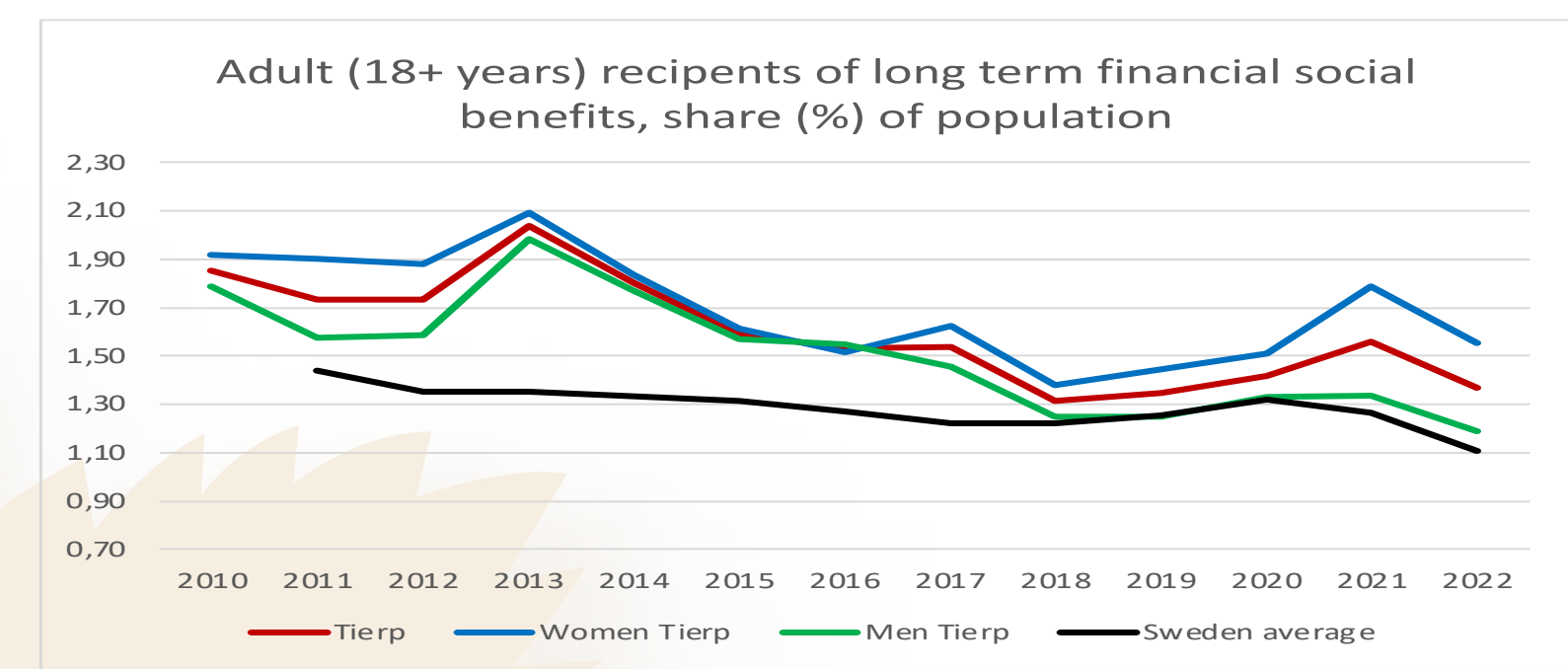


Diagram 1.1 In Tierp in 2022, 1.37 per cent of the population received long-term financial assistance. Through active work with the target group by the municipality, authorities and other actors, the share has decreased over time. People with substance abuse problems and foreign-born people with a low level of education are overrepresented among those receiving long-term financial assistance.

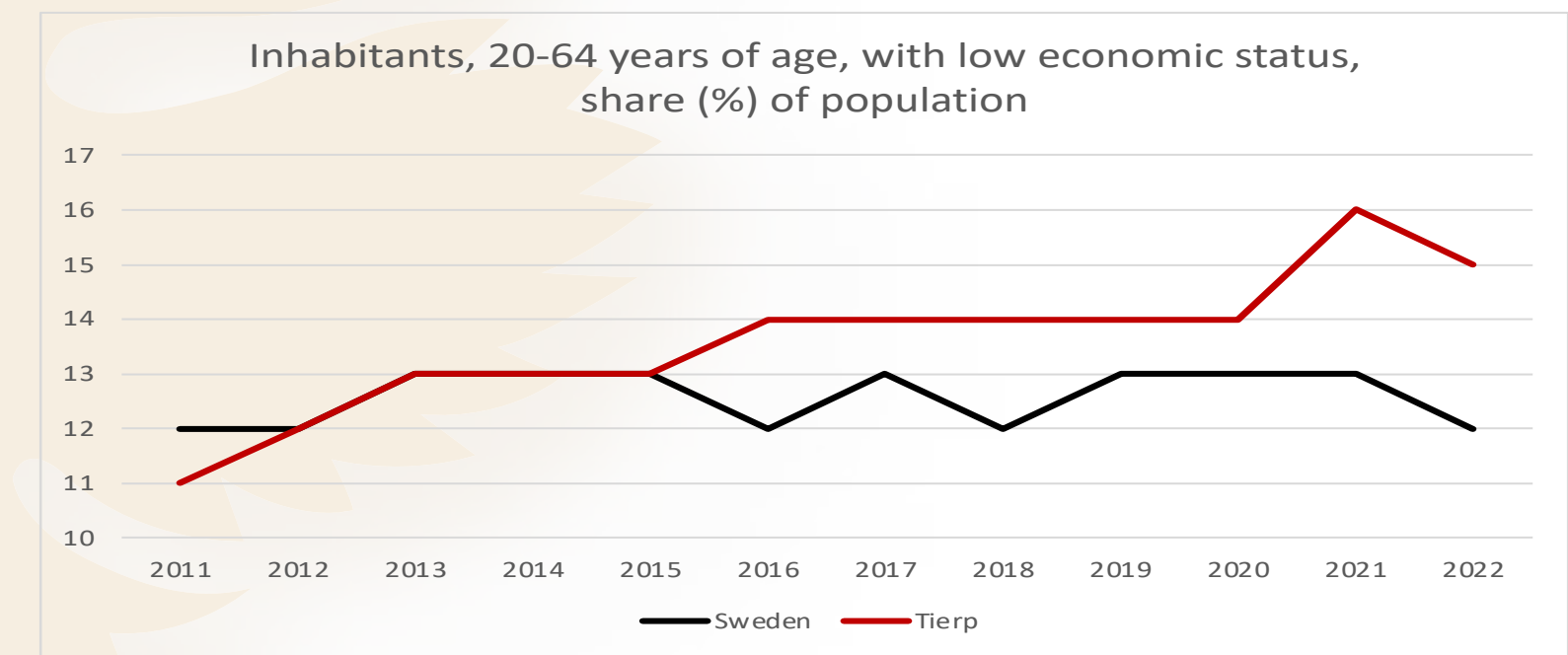


Diagram 1.2 In Tierp municipality 15 per cent of the population were classified as having low economic standard in 2022, i.e. with a disposable income below 60 per cent of the mean income in Sweden. The proportion has increased in Tierp in recent years, single women with children, single older women and people born abroad are the predominant groups with low economic standard. The proportion of children in the municipality living in families with a low economic standard has increased in recent years and amounted to 24 per cent in 2022.



# ZERO HUNGER

Achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Access to adequate food is a human right, which every country has a duty to ensure for its citizens. In Sweden, the main challenges are not hunger or malnourishment but rather sustainable consumption and production of food.

Municipal responsibilities for education, health and social care include responsibility for serving meals at school and care homes for example. The municipality also supervises food handling which involves securing food quality in restaurants and canteens.

Tierp municipality has adopted two local targets in this area: preservation of important agricultural land, a healthy and nutritious diet in schools, health and social care with high satisfaction of the students and elderly.

## Future challenges

Challenges for the municipality in relation to SDG2 include addressing the increasing amount of overweight and obese people, ensuring environmental sustainability in agriculture as well as throughout the food chain. The municipality is currently working actively to reduce food waste and the environmental impact of the meals served in municipal operations. Although hunger is not a widespread problem in Sweden, it is noticeable in schools that more children live in economically vulnerable households. School canteens recognise that more food is consumed on Fridays and Mondays, as more children eat before and after the weekend when they do not receive free lunch at school.

The agricultural land in Tierp has decreased over time. Agricultural land is a place-bound natural resource, which takes a long time to create and which is also of great importance for the landscape. Agricultural land also provides vital ecosystem services, for example, pastures are often rich in biodiversity. In order to reach SDG2 the municipality is working to maintain current agricultural land by avoiding its development and by purchasing more local produce for municipal operations.

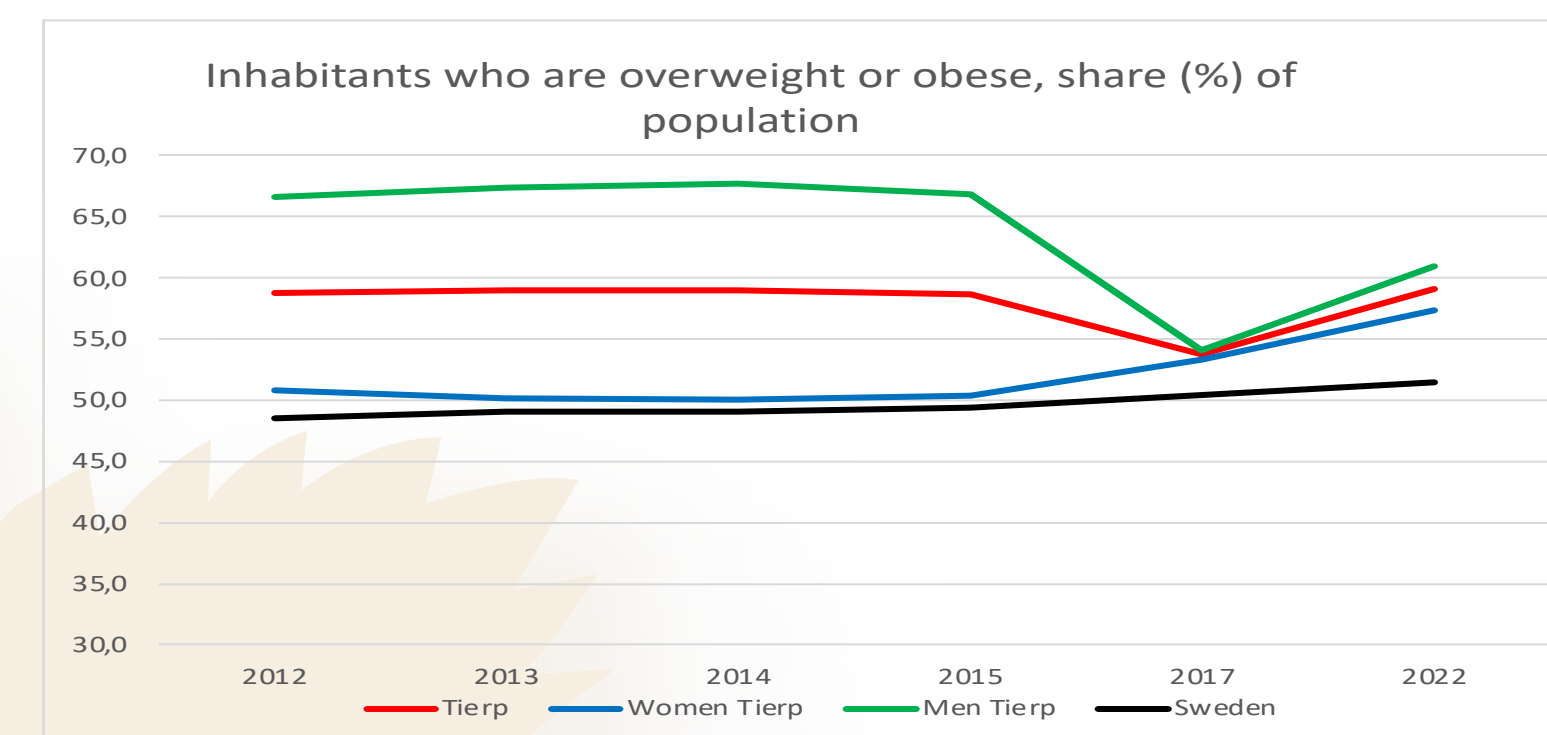


Diagram 2.1 Obesity is a growing problem accounting for an increased share of costs of ill health in Sweden and has several follow-on diseases. Tierp's population has slightly more overweight or obese people than the national mean and the share is increasing over time. The municipality is working to promote public health by planning for more cycling and walking in urban areas as well as creating good opportunities for sports and outdoor life for everyone. The statistics in the diagram come from two different surveys with self-assessed answers. Up to 2015, the statistics were derived from the Public Health Agency of Sweden's *Health on Equal Terms*-survey and after 2017 from the *Life and Health*-survey of Region Uppsala. The question asked in both surveys are comparable.



# GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

## Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all

Health is crucial for people’s ability to cope with school, work, earn a living and live an independent life. Sweden has overall high life expectancy, good self-assessed health and good access to healthcare. On the risk factor side, many lead sedentary lifestyles. Mental health problems and health effects linked to air pollution and chemicals are other risk areas.

By working for more equal living conditions, promoting a good childhood, good education and employment, the municipality’s work can contribute to a more equal health status, which is of great importance for sustainable social development.

Public health is slowly improving in Tierp municipality, the number of people suffering from cardiovascular disease is decreasing, dental health is improving and fewer people smoke or are at risk of alcohol abuse. However, poor mental health is widespread both nationally and in Tierp. The municipality has adopted eight local targets in this area, including ensuring cultural and leisure activities, access to green spaces for all, reducing poor mental health, reducing loneliness among the elderly and strengthening work to prevent and treat addiction.

### Future challenges

In Tierp, as well as nationally, there are particular challenges when it comes to differences in mental and physical health status between groups based on education level, gender, but also people with disabilities and within the LGBTQ community. The growing mental health problems in Tierp, especially among children and young people, are seen as a major future challenge that risks becoming a socio-economic problem. It is a complex challenge that requires long-term work and collaboration with the Region and other stakeholders.

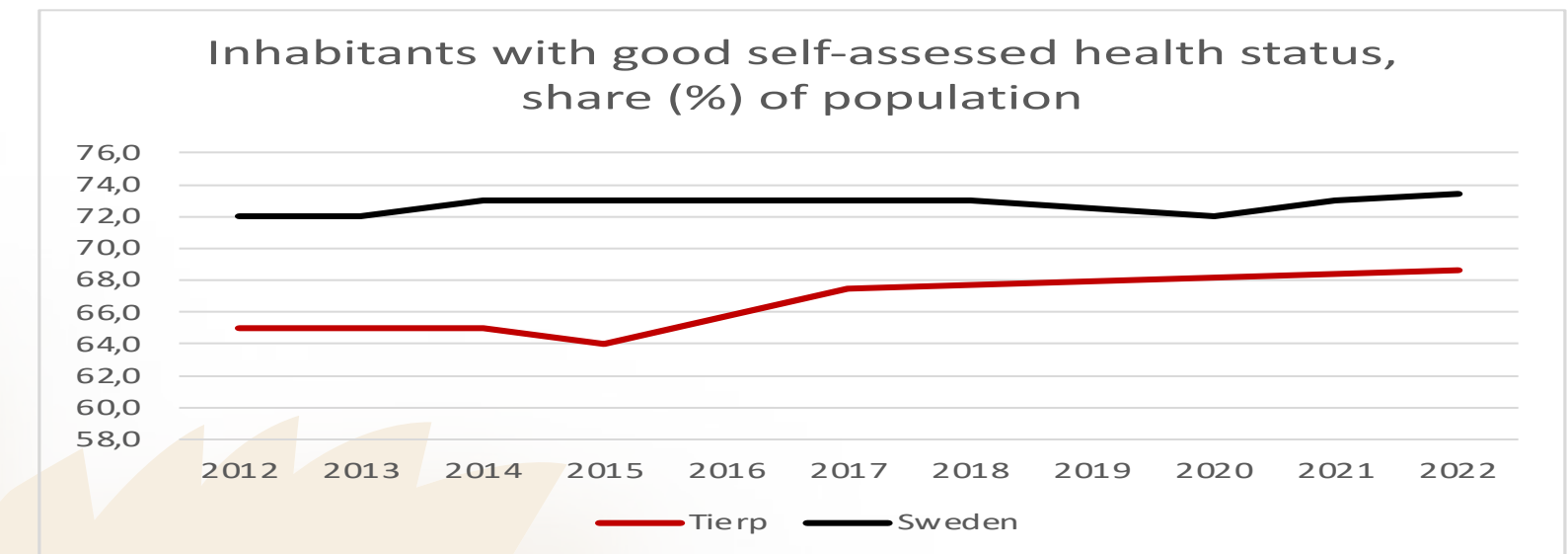


Diagram 3.1 An overall measure of people’s health is that they perceive their own health as good. In Region Uppsala’s *Life and Health*-survey in 2022, 69 per cent of adults (aged 16-84) in Tierp municipality rated their health as good or very good. The figure has increased slightly over the past twenty years and there is a similar trend in the whole country. However, more people than before are now rating their health as very good but similarly more people also rate their health as very poor.

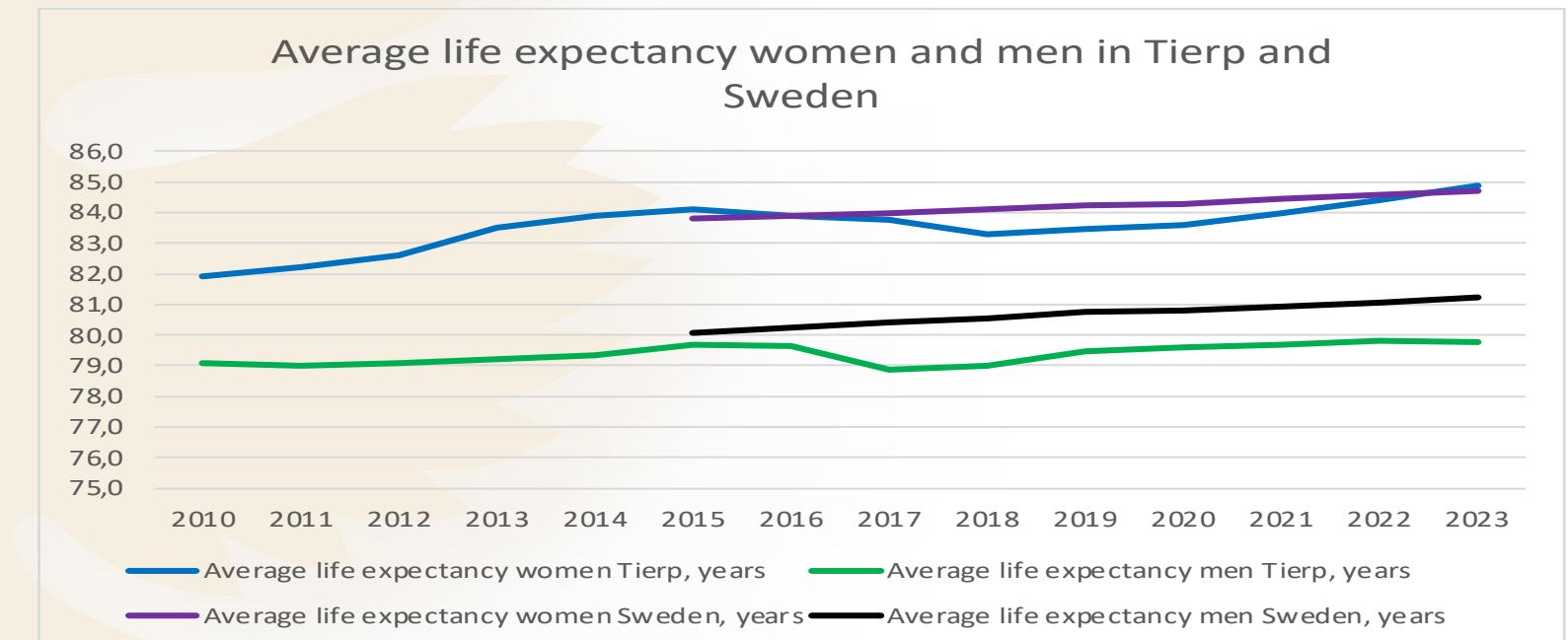


Figure 3.2 Life expectancy is often used as an indicator for the health situation of a population. Life expectancy is increasing over time for both men and women in Tierp municipality. However, women with low levels of education is the only group where life expectancy hardly increased at all the past few years.



# QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

## Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning

Education is a key factor in ensuring good health and a good quality of life for all. Here too there is a divide between groups in society as pupils' school results and grades are correlated with their parents' level of education and social background.

The municipality has adopted five local targets within SDG4. These include ensuring that all children are offered good-quality preschool, that primary schools have comparable standards, and increasing the amount of upper secondary school pupils who graduate. The municipality will also ensure access to natural environments for outdoor education and provide all citizens opportunities for lifelong learning.

### Future challenges

In Sweden schools are tasked with compensating for differences in parents' education and social situation so that children can receive a quality education. This is a major challenge for Tierp's schools where parents' have lower levels of education than the national average. Being qualified for upper secondary school after primary school is an important prerequisite for work and life in Swedish society.

Boys generally perform worse at school than girls. At the same time, girls and young women are more likely to experience mental health problems. These are two important challenges that the municipality needs to work more on.

The national shortage of qualified teachers and preschool teachers poses a skills supply challenge for Tierp's municipality. In addition to being successful in recruiting, the municipality needs to work on being an attractive employer.

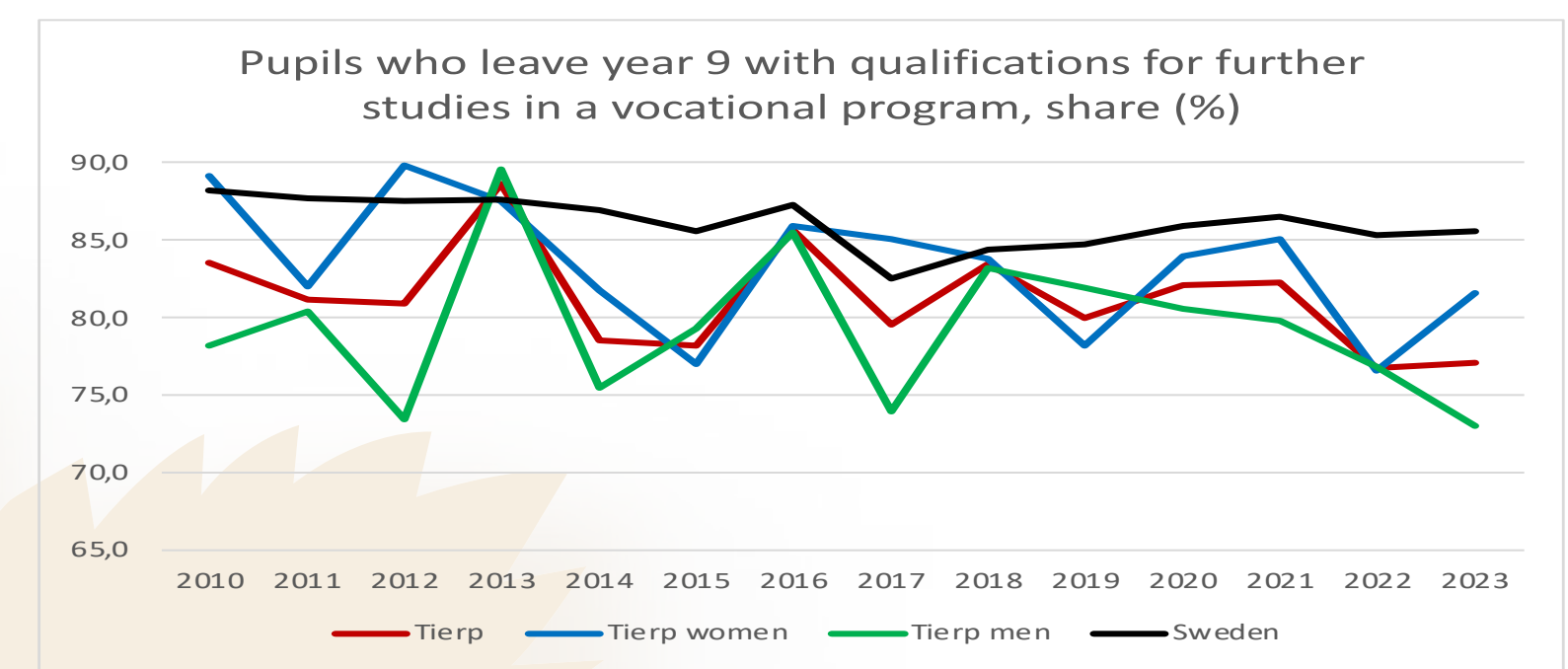


Diagram 4.1 In the past ten years, the results in Tierp municipality's schools have fallen slightly, in terms of both grade results and eligibility for upper secondary school. As a rule, the results over the years have been below the national average, with the exception of some schools in some years. In upper secondary education, the proportion of pupils graduating within four years has remained relatively stable, with a slight increase in recent years.

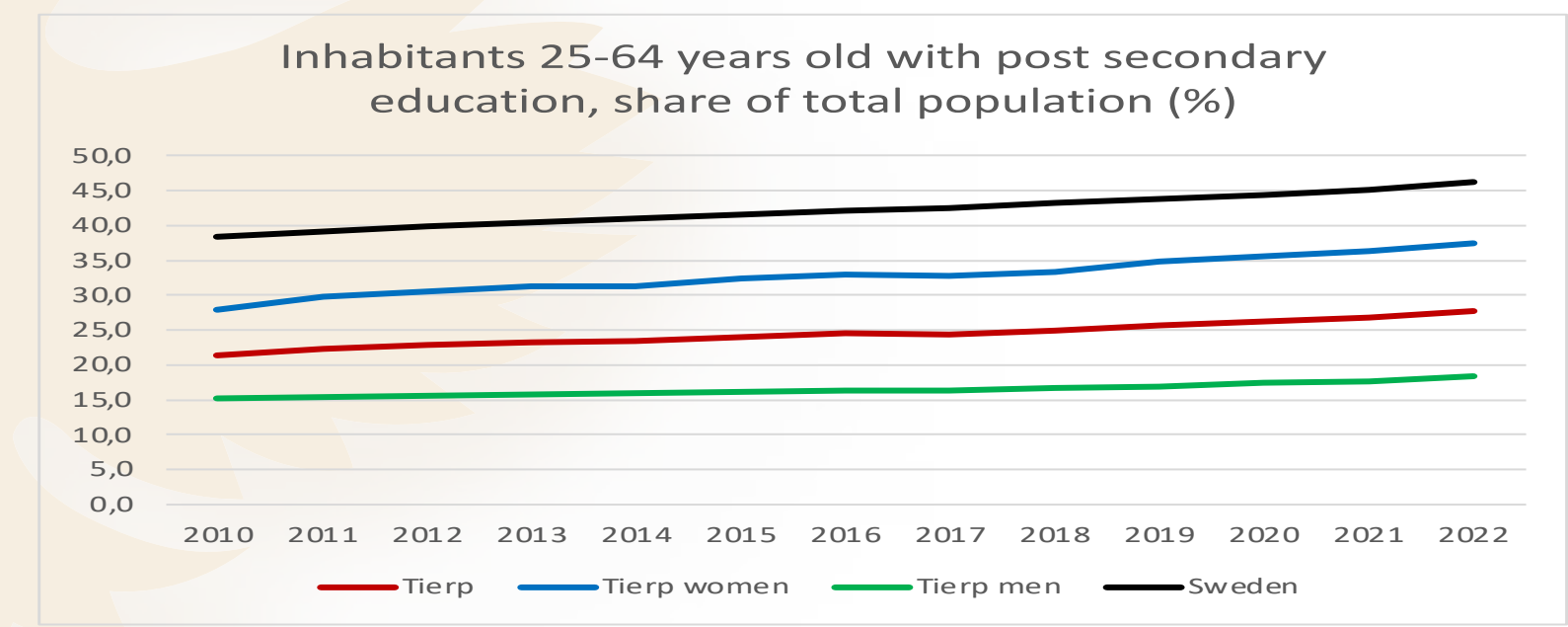


Diagram 4.2 The vocational training needs of adults has to be met and at the same time, local government and industry need trained staff in occupations where there is a skill shortage. Developing activities based on these needs is a major task for the municipal adult education in Tierp. The educational level of the population is important for both social and economic sustainability. The level of education is also correlated to public health. In 2022, around 27.7 per cent of the population in Tierp had a post-secondary education. Twice as many women as men have post-secondary education in Tierp.



# GENDER EQUALITY

## Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Gender equality is achieved when women and men, girls and boys have equal rights, conditions, opportunities and power to shape their own lives and contribute to the development of society. Despite extensive Swedish gender equality work over many years, men as a group still have more power and influence than women do, own more land and earn more. Women still have the main responsibility for unpaid domestic and care work. Health inequalities also exist. Women report poorer health, while men as a group have shorter life expectancy. Women are more likely to be victims of domestic violence, while men make up the majority of victims of violence in society.

Gender equality is part of the municipal mission - municipalities should provide citizens with equal services regardless of gender. It is not only a question of rights, but also of the quality and efficiency of services. As a political arena, employer and welfare provider, Tierp municipality therefore has an important role in ensuring that everyone has equal power and opportunities regardless of gender.

The municipality has adopted six local targets linked to SDG5. These include ensuring that all municipal activities are planned based on the needs of both women and men, and that resources are distributed equally between sexes. As an employer in a female-dominated sector, the municipality has a particular responsibility to improve women's working conditions.

### Future challenges

There are several challenges to achieve gender equality in Tierp municipality. These include combating all discrimination against women in society, eliminating the differences in pay and employment rates between women and men, improving conditions for equal parenting, and preventing men's violence against women, including honour-related violence.

In Tierp's schools, more young women experience harassment and insecurity at school, and young girls in Tierp assess their hopes for the future lower than girls in the rest of Uppsala county. Young boys do less well at school, which affects their health. The challenges lie in preventing destructive masculinity norms that negatively affect both men and women.

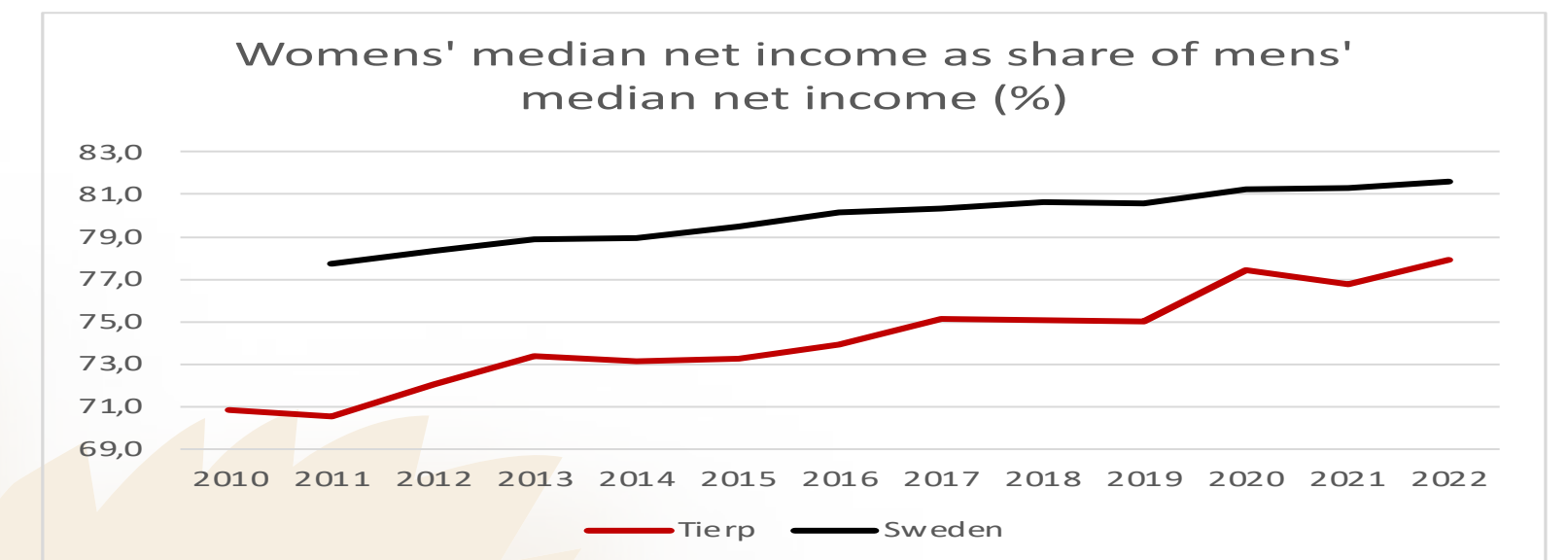


Figure 5.1: In Tierp municipality, a woman earned on average 78 per cent of men's median net income in 2022. The pay gap is largely due to the gender divide of the labour market, with women working in low-pay sectors to a greater extent. Women are also more likely to be on sick leave, work part-time and take a larger share of parental benefits.

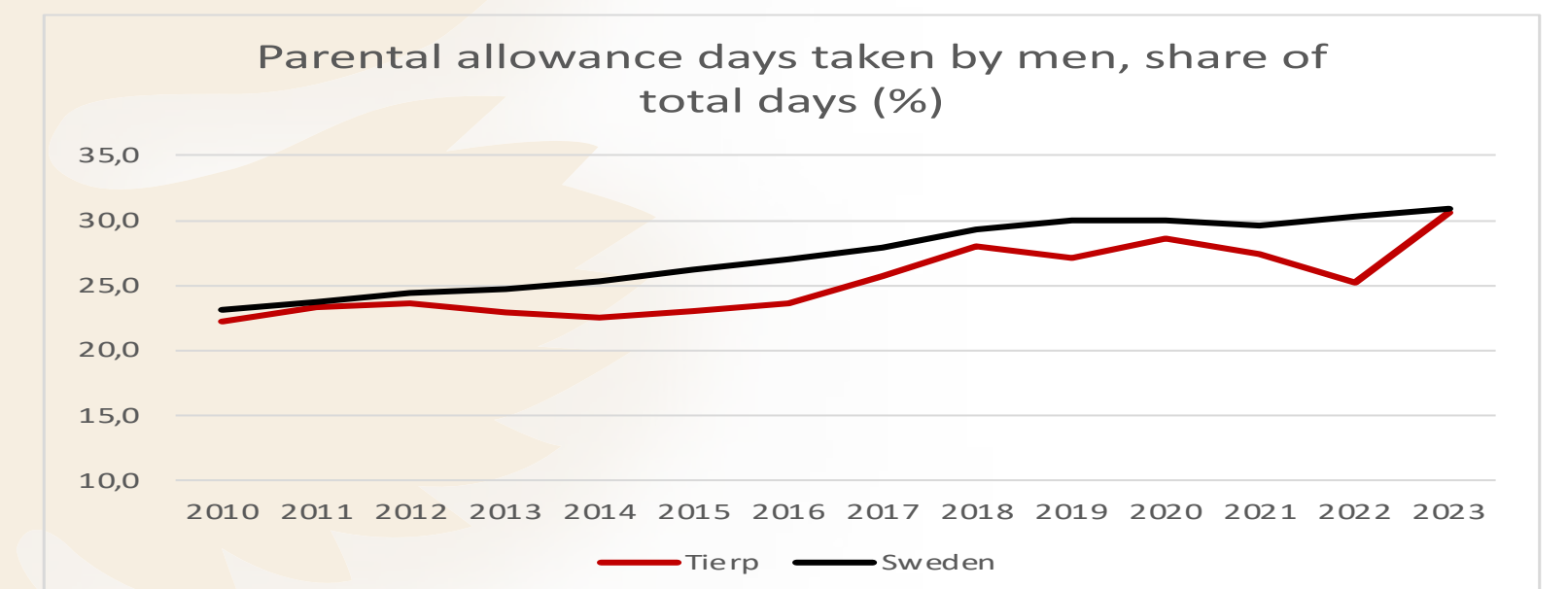


Figure 5.2 In 2023, women in Tierp municipality took 70 per cent of all parental benefit days, while men took 30 per cent. This is in line with both the national and county averages and has increased slowly over the last twenty years.



# CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

## Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation

In Sweden and in Tierp the vast majority of citizens have access to clean water and sanitation. On the municipal level, there are several challenges, including the need for maintenance and replacement of water and sewerage pipes that are getting old. Efforts to reduce pollution from chemicals, pharmaceuticals and nutrients in the groundwater are also needed.

Climate change will result in longer periods of drought and heat waves, as well as heavier and increased rainfall. Dry periods are likely to lead to low groundwater levels, resulting in water shortages, especially in places where households have their own wells. Heavier rainfall increases the risk of flooding and untreated wastewater polluting lakes and waterways. Not even one of the national environmental objectives relating to the aquatic environment will be achieved in either the county or nationally.

The municipality has adopted three local targets in this area. Improving water quality by minimising spillage of hazardous chemicals and materials, restoring water-related ecosystems such as wetlands, rivers and lakes. The municipality will also improve water use efficiency and ensure a sustainable supply of freshwater to prevent water scarcity and low groundwater levels.

### Future challenges

There are several major challenges in this area, including the pace required for renewal of the municipal distribution network and adaptation to climate change with both drier and wetter periods.

Restoring water-based ecosystems will take time. The problem of eutrophication requires a change in agriculture. Reducing environmental toxins in nature requires less use of chemicals in society as a whole and more resources as well as new methods for decontamination. The monitoring of individual wastewater facilities to eliminate poor facilities and prevent direct spillage requires continuous work for a long time to come.

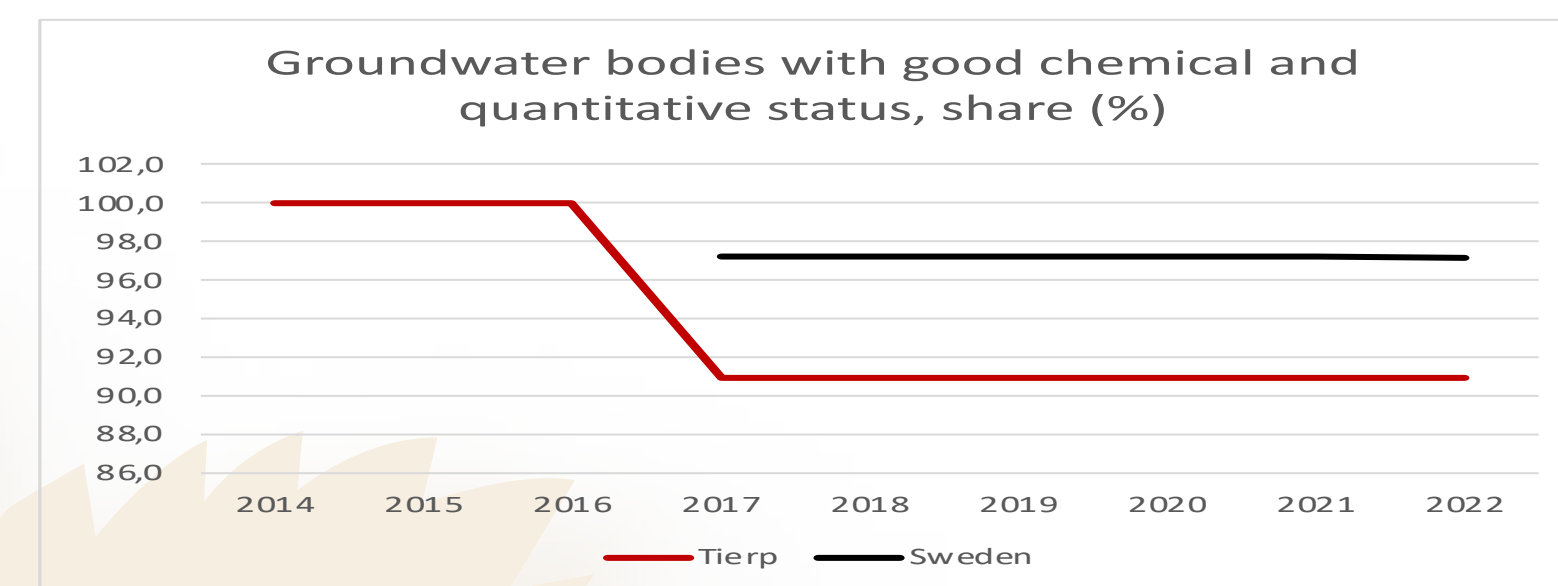


Diagram 6.1 The water quality in the municipality is good, with all but one of the groundwater bodies assessed as having good chemical and quantitative status. All currently used reservoirs are water protection areas, which ensures future supply of good drinking water quality.

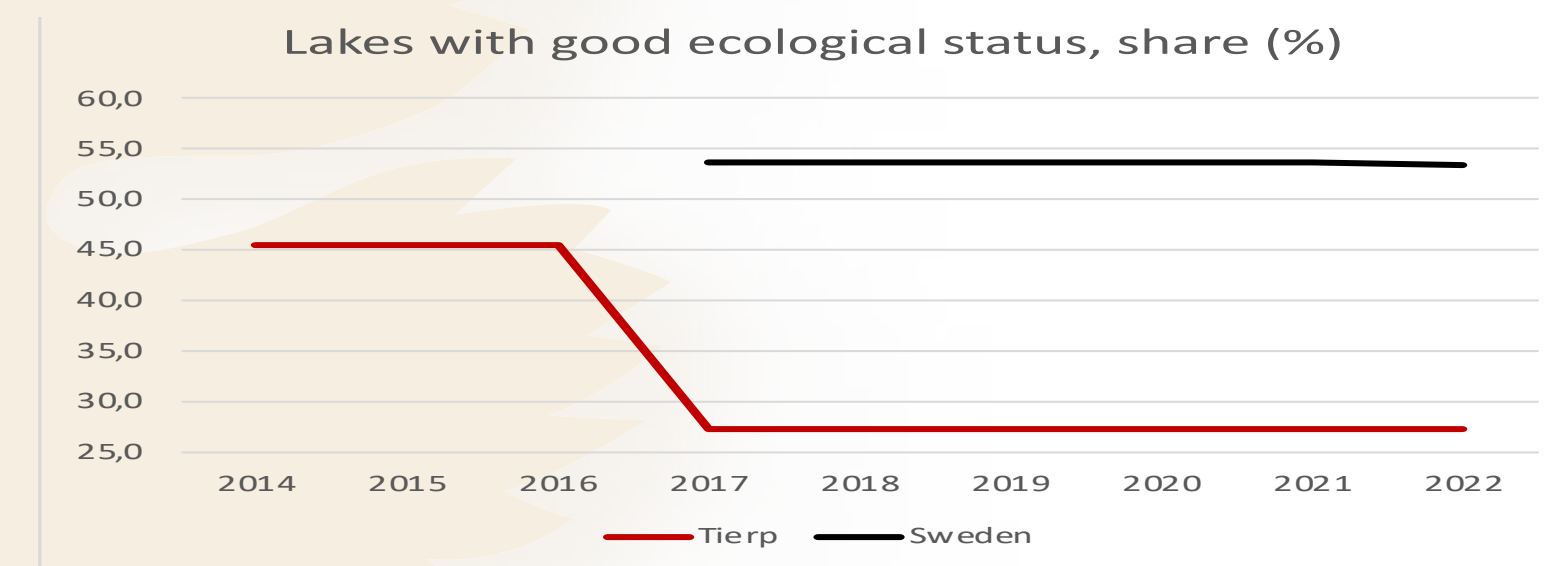


Diagram 6.2 Today, 27 per cent of the municipality's lakes and none of the municipality's waterways are assessed as having good ecological and chemical status. The situation is similar in the county and is due to high levels of environmental toxins and nutrients flowing into our watercourses. The municipality has received government nature conservation funding in recent years to improve the situation by, among other things, restoring wetlands, storm water ponds and waterways in collaboration with several other stakeholders.



# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

## Ensuring access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy

Access to renewable energy is good in Tierp thanks to developed hydropower. SDG7 on sustainable energy is connected to several of Sweden's national environmental objectives, including the environmental quality objectives on clean air, climate impact and a well-planned built environment. Sweden has the highest share of renewable energy consumption in the EU, reaching 66 per cent in 2022.

The major challenge for Sweden and Tierp in terms of renewable energy use is the transport sector. In spite of many ongoing initiatives, further measures are needed, such as increased introduction of electric vehicles, increased use of biofuels and urban planning that render transports more efficient.

The municipality has adopted two local targets to SDG7. These are to increase the share of renewable energy in the municipal energy mix and to reduce the municipality's energy consumption, including through energy efficiency measures.

### Future challenges

The use of fossil fuels remains high in Tierp, especially in the transport sector. The share of passenger cars fuelled by renewable fuels remains low but is increasing. To reduce the risks of power shortages and meet the increased demand for electricity, the expansion of the electricity grid is necessary and the municipality should promote the expansion of renewable energy such as wind power, combined power and heating as well as solar panels.

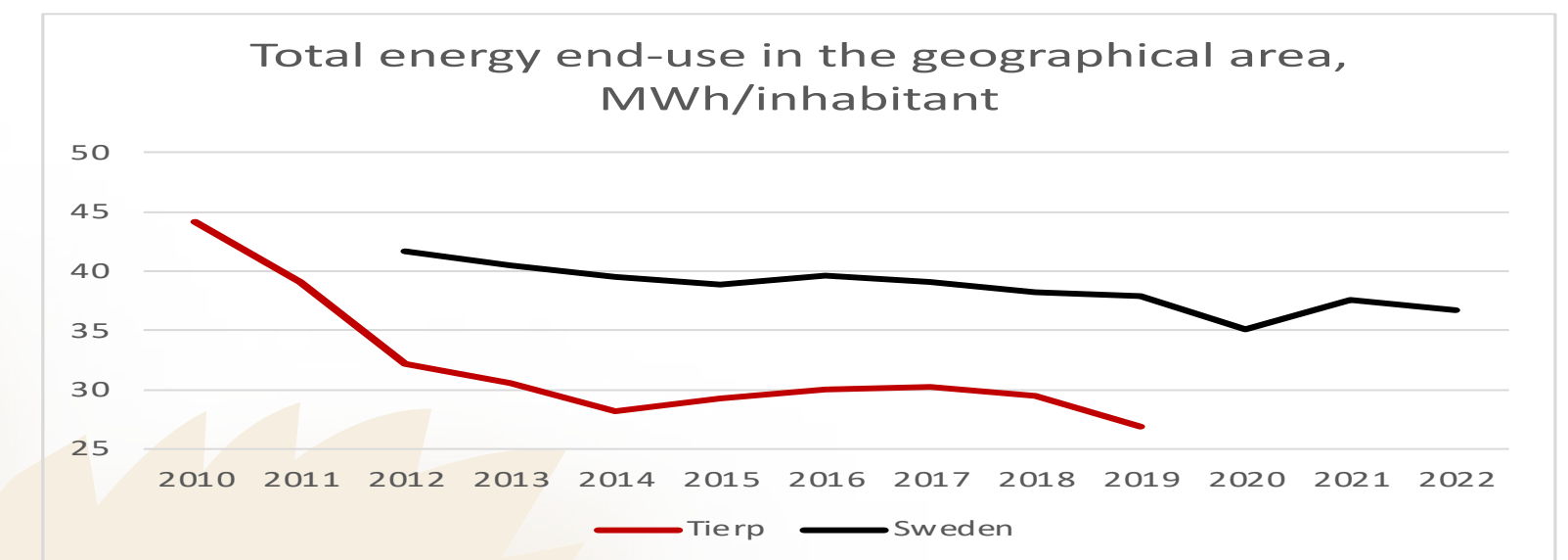


Diagram 7.1 Energy efficiency is good for the environment and for cutting costs. In the municipality, energy consumption per inhabitant has fallen by just over 40 per cent since the peak year of 2010.

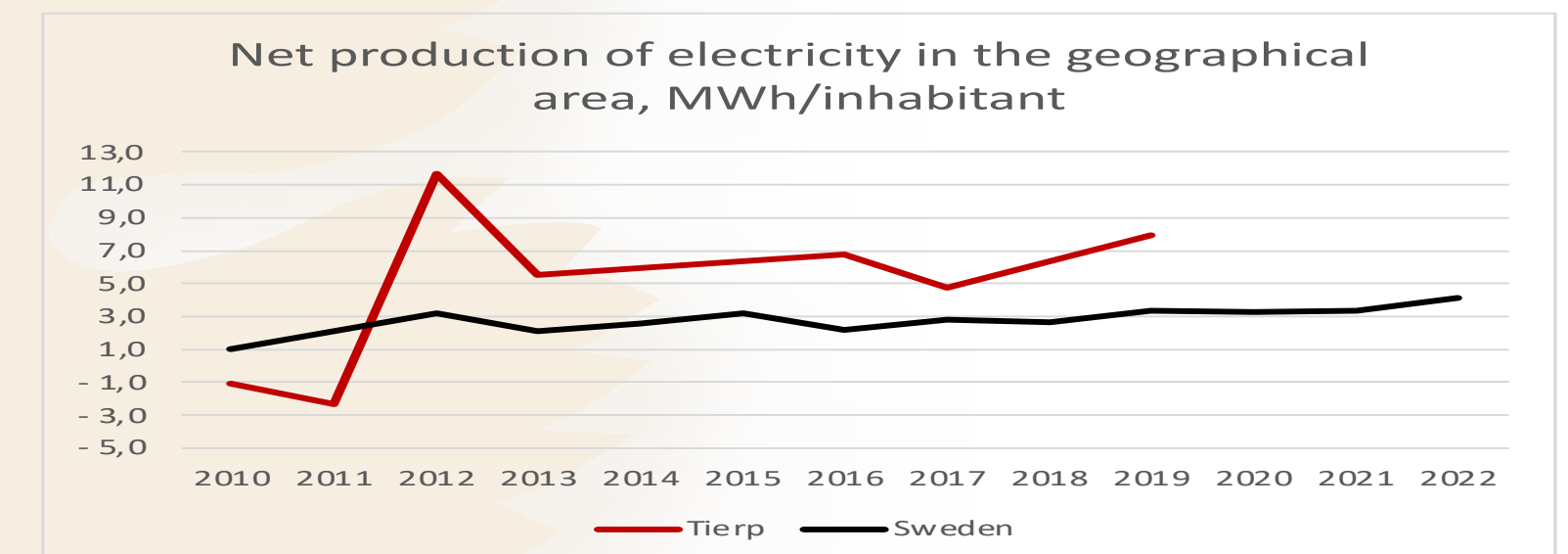


Diagram 7.2 Total electricity production in the municipality minus end use of electricity. Electricity production in the municipality is mainly hydroelectric, although there are plans for other sources of power such as large wind farms, solar farms and combined heat and power.





# DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

## Sustainable economic growth with equitable working conditions for all

Promoting a favourable investment climate, employment and decent work are important factors for sustainable economic development. Municipalities can support the development of jobs for all groups, in particular for people who have low levels of education or have been unemployed a long time. Municipalities are also responsible for parts of adult education and training, helping people find work as well as municipal businesses find qualified employees. Tierp municipality is the largest employer in the municipality, providing a good opportunity for influencing employment conditions.

The municipality has adopted seven local targets for the area. These include supporting the development of jobs and decent working conditions for all, reducing the proportion of young people who are neither working nor studying. The municipality is also working to maintain and increase the number of businesses in its geographical area and to ensure that the municipality's tasks as a control authority, landowner and licence issuer are carried out in accordance with legal requirements.

### Future challenges

The welfare sector is faced with major recruitment challenges as the number of older people is currently increasing significantly more than the working age population. The challenges in recruiting staff is already a fact within healthcare and schools, as well as for several of the municipality's companies.

In the future, the municipality needs to continue working on various digital solutions to both free up staff time and make the best use of their skills. Creating a good work environment and motivating more employees to work full-time are other priorities. At the same time as there is a shortage of skilled labour, there are also many unemployed people. A major challenge is to match them with the needs of the labour market, which requires good collaboration both internally in the municipality and with other authorities such as the Swedish Public Employment Service, the Social Insurance Agency and the health service.

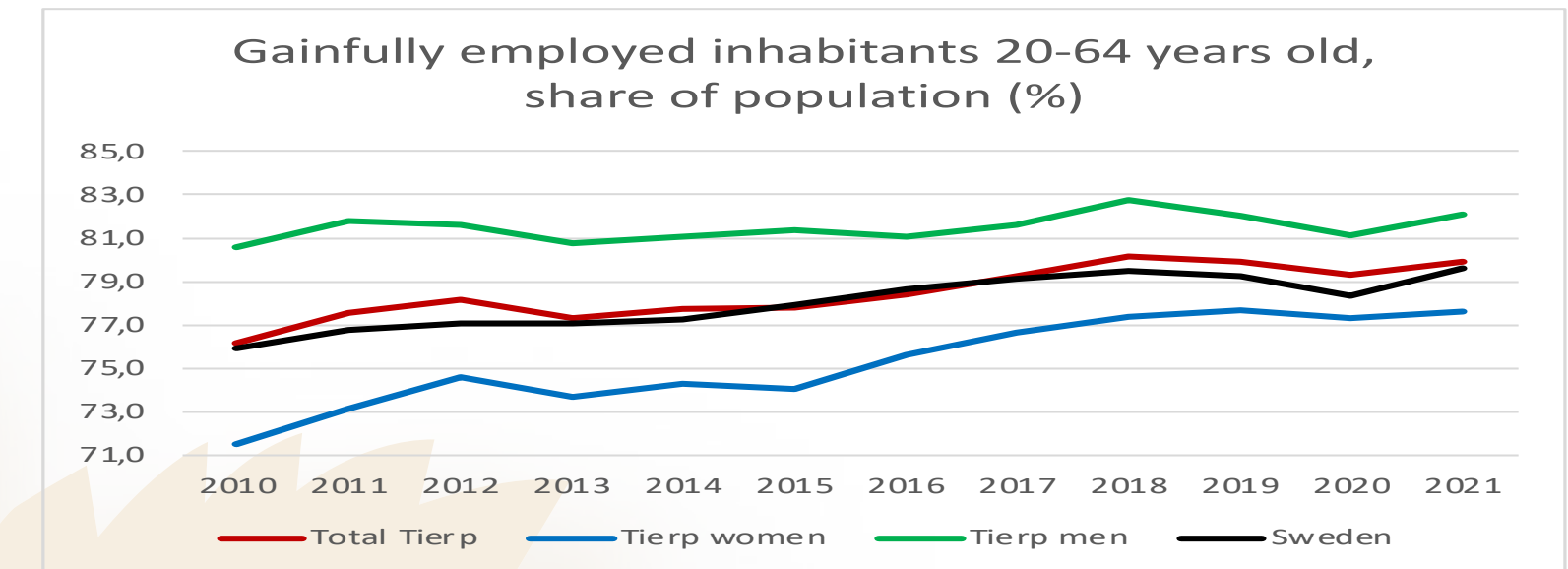


Figure 8.1 The number of people in employment has increased steadily in the municipality over the past twenty years, reaching over 80 per cent in 2022.

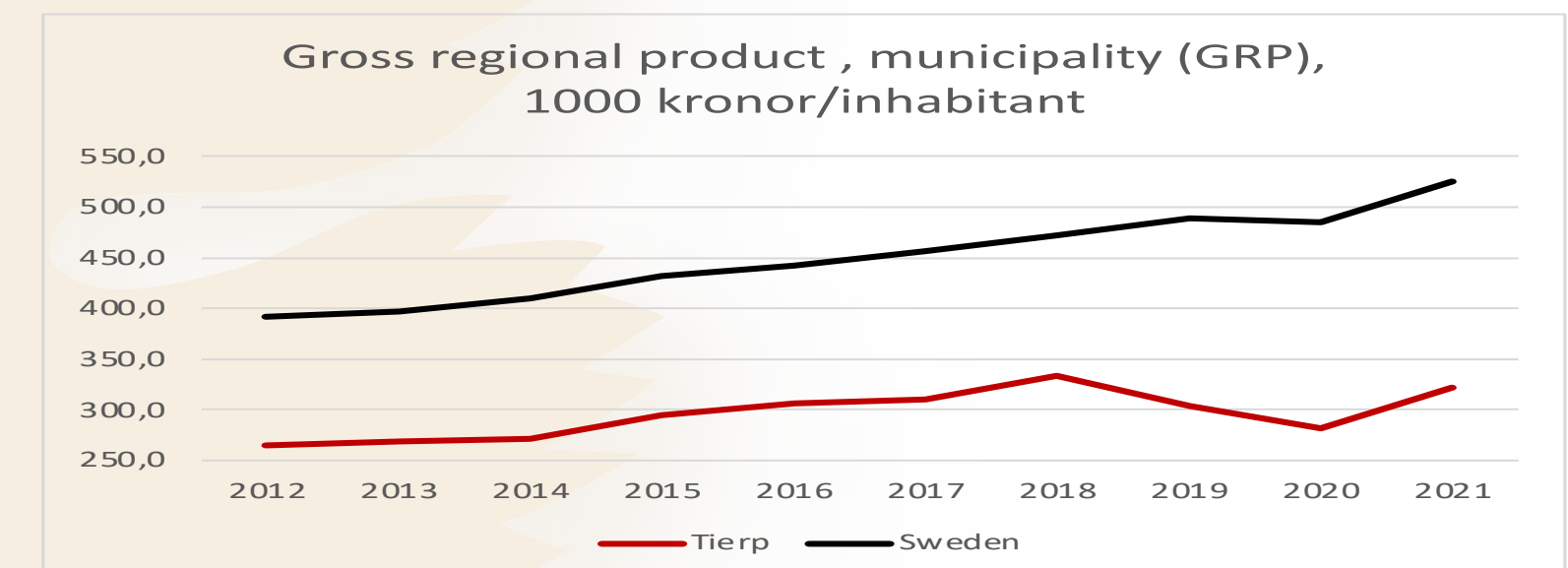


Figure 8.2 Gross regional product (GRP) indicates the value of all production that takes place within the municipality. GRP development has been relatively good in the municipality in recent years in part due to a strong business community with several large industrial companies such as Munters and Atlas Copco, as well as many smaller companies within the green industries. In 2023, Tierp was awarded the prize for Best Growth by the credit information company Syna. The prize is awarded to a municipality in Sweden with the highest proportion of companies hiring new employees, making a profit and increasing their turnover.



# INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Tierp municipality has a long tradition of manufacturing and industry with its iron works. The tradition lives on in several world-leading large companies today. Tierp also has many small and medium-sized enterprises in engineering and manufacturing, many active within green industries. Some of the larger private employers in the municipality are Atlas Copco Tools AB, Erasteel Kloster AB and Munters Europe AB.

The municipality has adopted three local targets in this area. Firstly, to develop a reliable and sustainable infrastructure, of which public transport and various mobility solutions are a natural part. Secondly, to collaborate more with universities and businesses contributing to new knowledge and innovations, and work to increase access to fast, high-capacity broadband.

### Future challenges

Sweden and Tierp face several significant challenges ahead. Further measures are needed to continue the development towards a more sustainable industry from a fossil-based to a circular and bio-based economy. Innovation is an area that can boost companies and create the conditions for growth. One way to increase competitiveness is to create the conditions for new industries to grow, for example, the hospitality industry is an area that has been identified as having great potential in the municipality. Investments to increase access to good, fast broadband throughout the municipality are also needed.

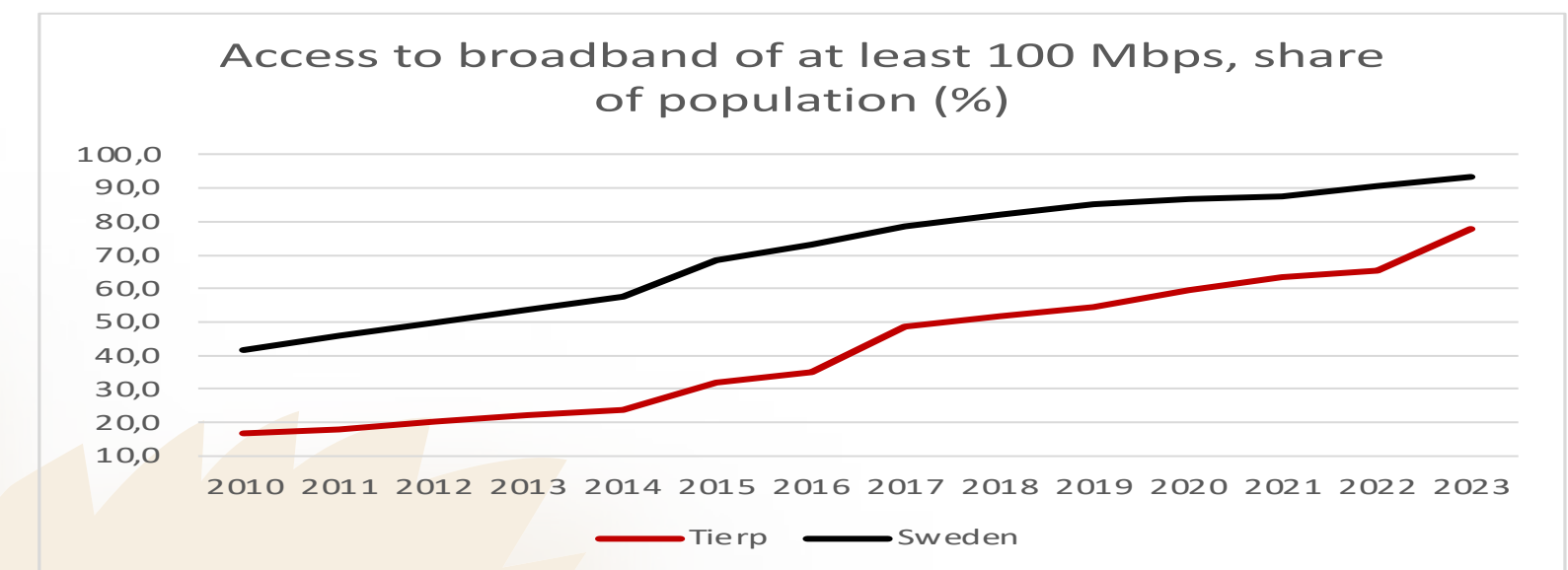


Diagram 9.1 Access to fast broadband in rural areas is still unsatisfactory and a threat to development in sparsely populated areas. In 2023, just over 77 per cent of residents in the municipality had access to fast broadband, which is well below the national average. More efforts are needed here, including at government level, to ensure a digital infrastructure throughout the country.

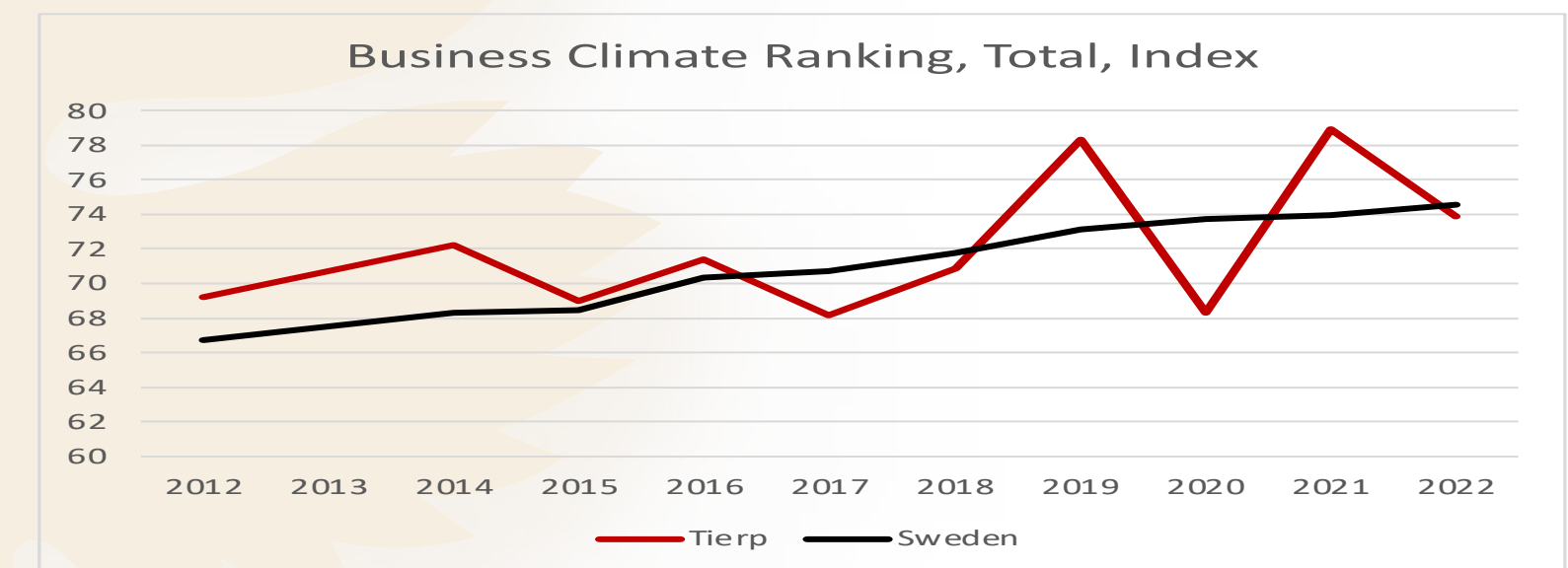


Diagram 9.2 The business climate is perceived as good in the municipality. This is confirmed by the surveys carried out by the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions' open comparison Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI), where Tierp municipality has scored around 70 points (out of the total 100) in recent years.



# REDUCE INEQUALITIES

## Reduce inequalities within and among countries

Even though poverty has been reduced in many countries, the income gap between people and groups has increased. Sweden is a country with high equality, but in recent years, it is the OECD-country where economic inequality has increased the most. Inequality has many effects and poor socio-economic conditions impact peoples' health status negatively.

With responsibility for education, care and social support, municipalities have good opportunities to counteract inequality between individuals and groups of both children and adults. Completion of basic education is one of several important factors in reducing inequality. The local government equalisation system in Sweden is intended to provide equal conditions for welfare regardless of where in the country you live.

Tierp municipality has adopted four local targets in this area. To counteract socio-economic segregation, assisting newly arrived immigrants to start working or studying and to increase the proportion of people in care who feel they can decide on things that are important to them.

### Future challenges

Sweden and Tierp face major challenges and inequalities in health, education and work status between different groups are tangible. While many people feel part of society and able to influence the conditions that shape their everyday lives, more and more people feel marginalised and excluded from participation in public life.

The municipality has an important role to play in combating all forms of discrimination against people based on gender, national or ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation, age or creed. Due to an ageing population and a recent surge in the numbers of immigrants who need support, Tierp and many other municipalities are facing challenges in fulfilling their welfare commitments and providing good public services in all parts of the municipality.

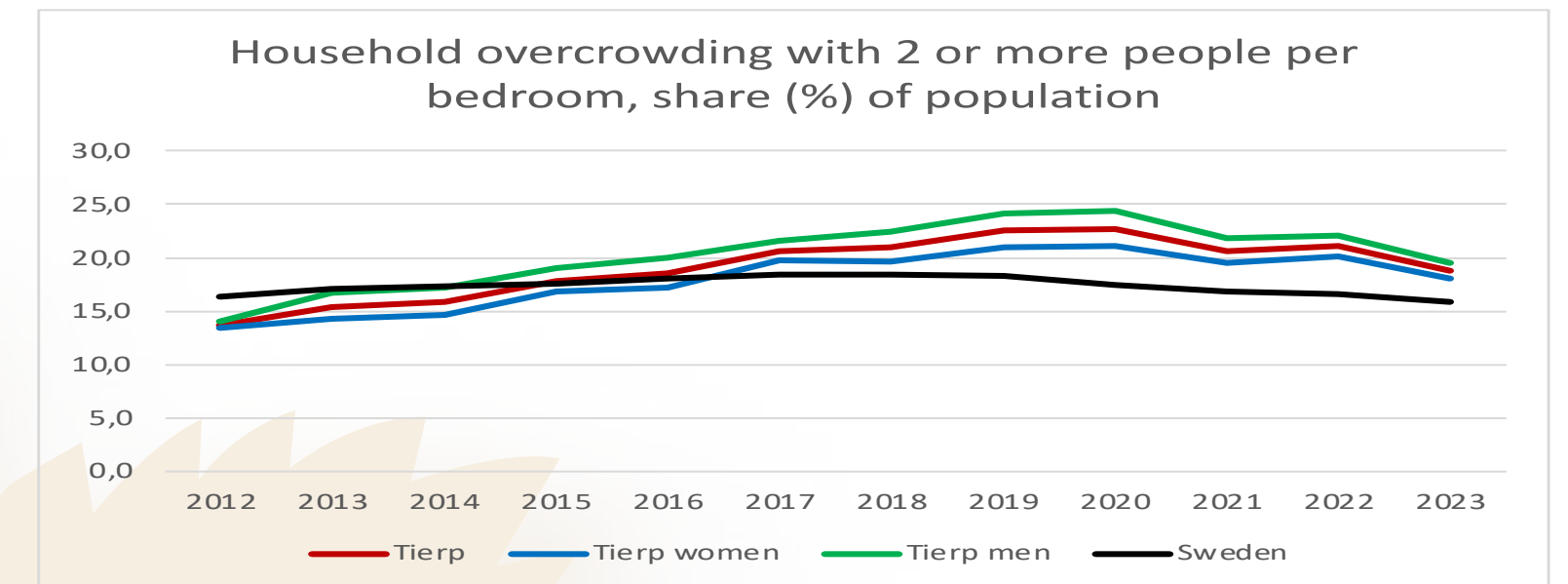


Diagram 10.1. Overcrowding in apartment blocks according to standard two, which means that a household is considered to be overcrowded if there are more than two people per room (excluding kitchen and living room). Crowdedness is a measure of living standards, in a crowded home there may not be enough space to socialise, do homework, play or work comfortably.

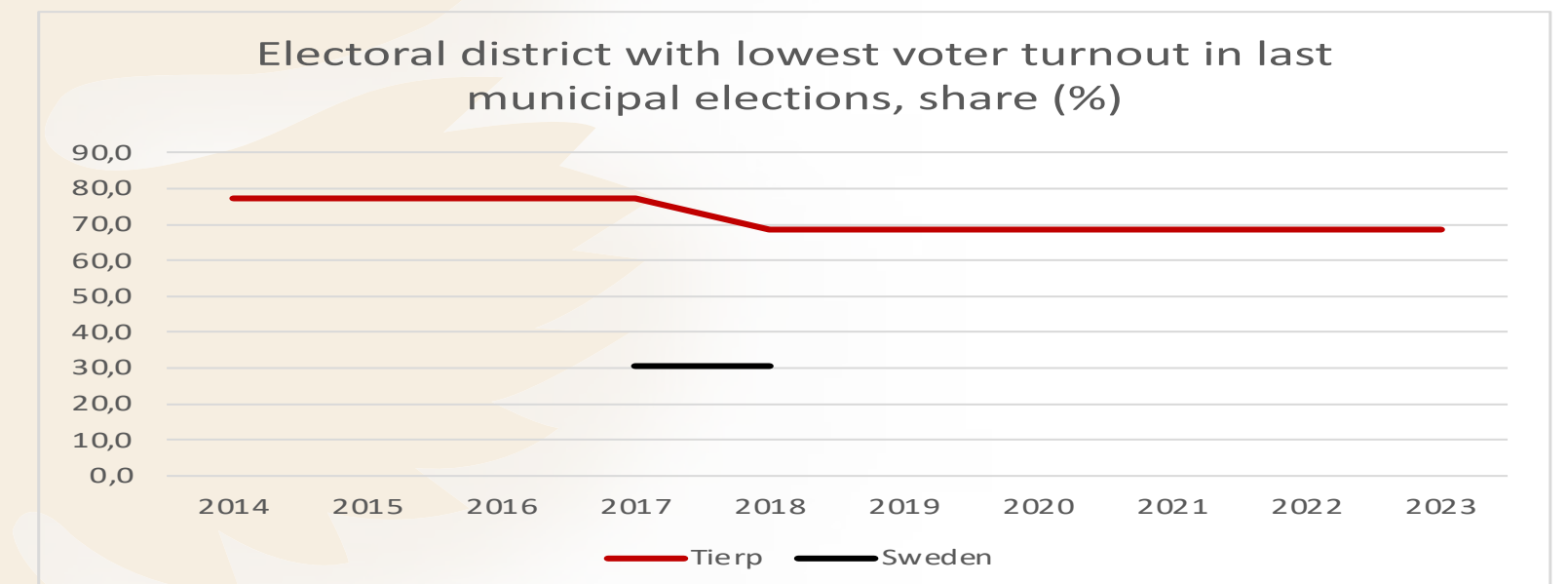


Diagram 10.2 Turnout in the constituency with lowest voter turnout in the last municipal election has remained stable but has fallen slightly in the last two elections in Tierp municipality. The differences in turnout between groups increased in recent elections. It may be a sign that some citizens are feeling that their vote does not have an impact. It may also imply that people do not receive information and thus are or feel excluded from society.



# SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The municipality is responsible for planning and development of cities, towns and villages, for water, sewerage and parts of the transport infrastructure. A municipality's Development plan states how land will be used and how urban and rural areas are to be developed. It is an important tool for sustainable development. Tierp municipality has a large proportion of its population residing in sparsely populated areas, creating challenges in supplying good public and commercial services to all citizens.

The municipality has adopted six local targets in this area. These include working towards adequate and affordable housing for all. The municipality will also create inclusive urban environments that offer good access to green spaces, public places and the opportunity to get around safely as a pedestrian or cyclist. The municipality also wants to offer a range of high quality and accessible public and commercial services throughout the municipality.

## Future challenges

Tierp municipality faces a housing shortage, and few new homes have been developed in recent years. The housing shortage has resulted in an increase in overcrowding during the past ten years, and also makes it more difficult for businesses and the municipality to recruit trained staff. Other challenges in this area include increasing residential segregation, ensuring acceptable public transport even in sparsely populated areas and adapting the municipality's urban centres to climate change so that they can withstand both heat waves and heavy rain.

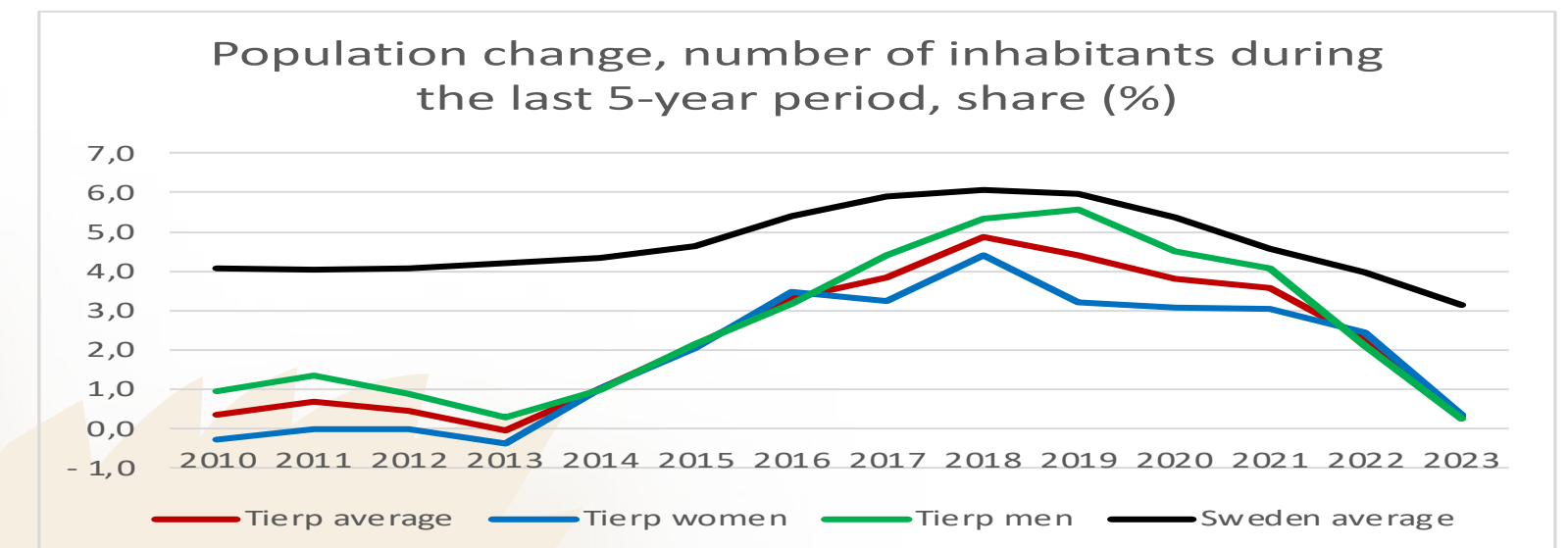


Diagram 11.1 The population change trend in the municipality has gone from being positive to declining in recent years. This is due to lower birth rates and more people moving from rather than to the municipality. This is challenging for, among other things, the financing of welfare services as the Swedish local municipalities have their own tax base to finance operations.

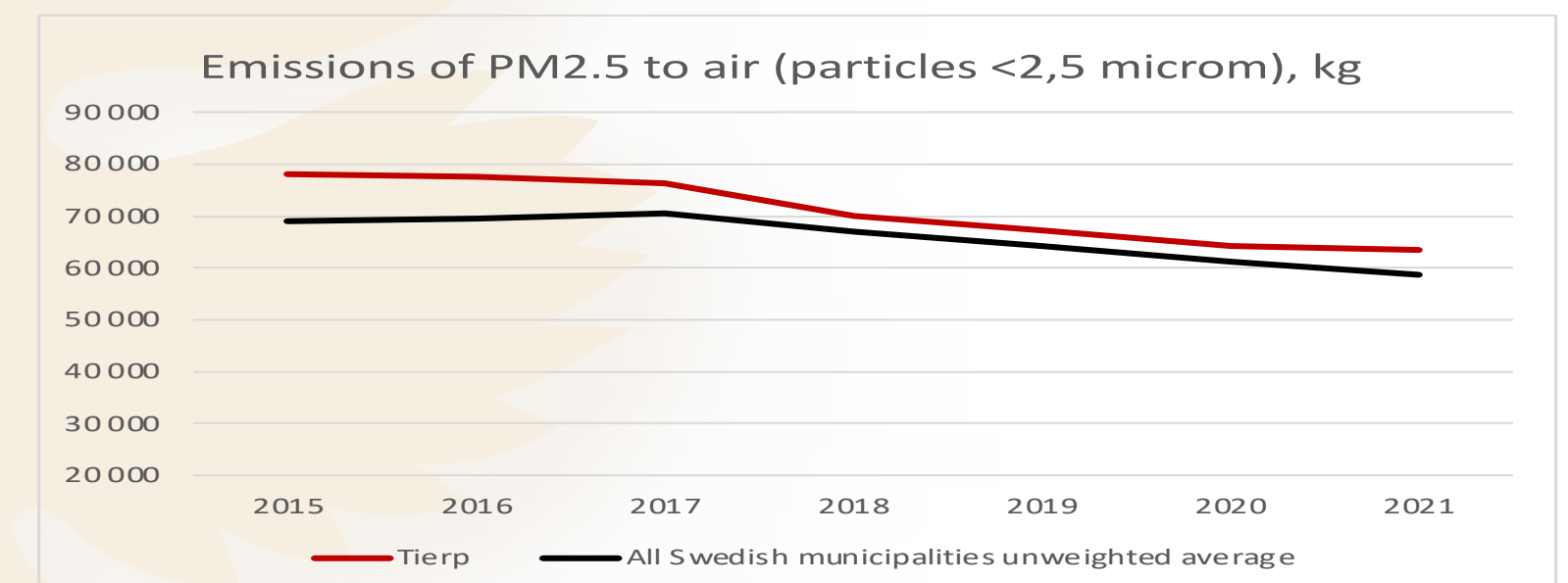


Diagram 11.2 The PM2.5 measure indicates the weight of small particles with a diameter of up to 2.5 micrometres in the air and is a measure of air pollution. These particles are mainly produced by combustion, but also by road wear and particles from tyres and brakes. Small particles in the air lead to major health problems. Emissions in the municipality have decreased since the 1990s but have stalled in recent years, posing health risks mainly in urban areas.



# RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

## Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Sustainable consumption and production means efficient use of resources, taking into account climate emissions, ecosystem services and the Earth's limited resources. Today, we produce and consume far beyond what is sustainable in the long term. Moving to a more sustainable, circular economy brings not only environmental benefits but also social and economic benefits such as increased competitiveness, business development and opportunities for increased local employment.

Municipalities are major consumers and procure goods and services worth billions every year. Municipalities are also responsible for large parts of waste management. Utilising the resources in waste through recycling and detoxifying the cycle by collecting hazardous waste are crucial to achieving the National Environmental Quality Objectives and are in line with several of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The municipality has adopted four targets in this area. These include reducing food waste and the amount of waste. The municipality's purchases should promote sustainable production and innovation and stimulate a circular economy.

### Future challenges

Responsible consumption and production is flagged by the OECD as the SDG where Sweden faces greatest challenges, this also applies to municipalities. Swedish consumption has a large environmental impact both nationally and globally due to the considerable share of imported goods and products, which is also true in Tierp municipality even if consumption is lower than in most other municipalities.

Tierp municipality has good conditions for circular and bio-based economy as a large proportion of its companies are active within the green industries. Here, more collaboration is needed between the municipality and the business community to accelerate the transition required, including more locally grown food and locally produced goods or promoting the municipality's local tourist destinations.

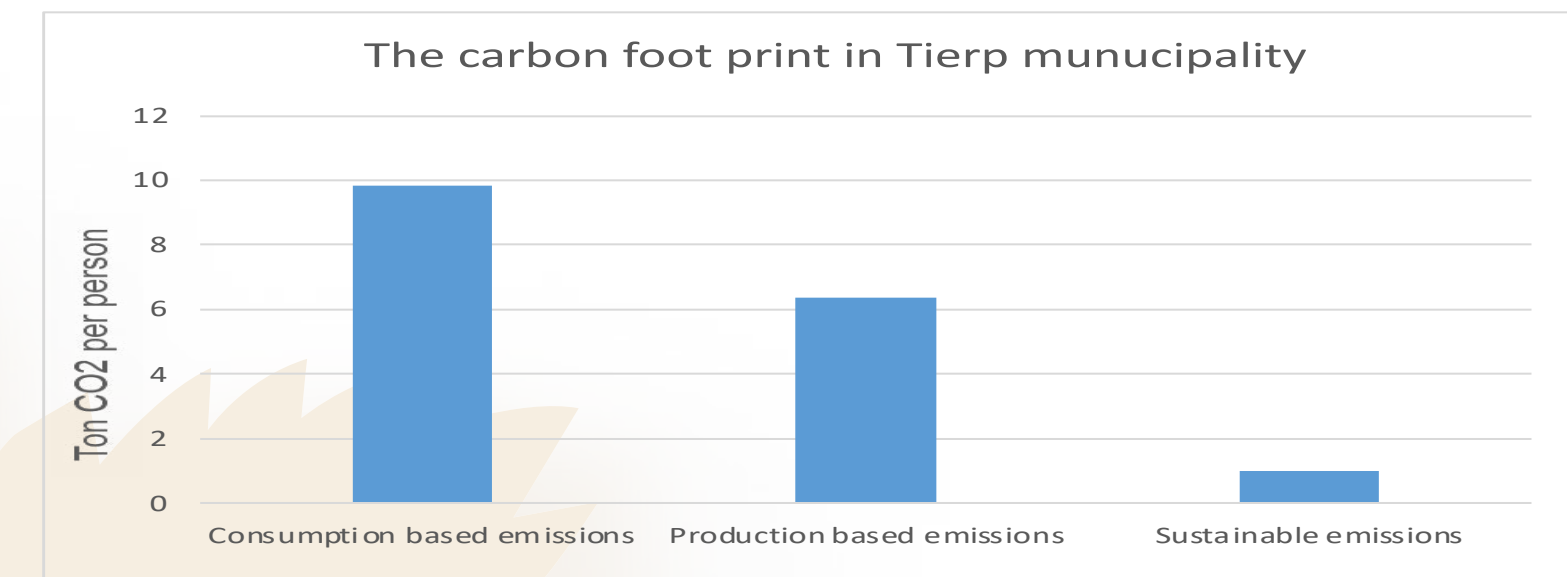


Diagram 12.1 Carbon dioxide emissions per person in Tierp municipality calculated from a consumption perspective (emissions generated from our consumption of goods and services regardless of where in the world the emissions have occurred) and a production perspective (all emissions within the geographical area) as well as the sustainable level of emissions per person. Source: National Emissions Database 2021 and REAP Sustainable Urban Planning Tool 2022.



# CLIMATE ACTION

## Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Tierp's greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 35 per cent between 1990 and 2021, mainly due to changes in the heating of homes and premises, as well as industry and agriculture. At the same time, consumption-based emissions, caused by Swedish consumption, have increased. At national level, the increase of emissions outside Sweden is estimated to be about the same as the reduction within Sweden's borders.

Municipalities play an important role and have helped to reduce Sweden's emissions in recent decades, most visibly in heating, public transport and waste management.

The municipality has adopted three local targets in this area. To have no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2045. Adapting physical planning to climate change in order to limit climate impact and reduce vulnerability to a changing climate, as well as making Tierp municipality and the municipal group's transports fossil-free by 2030.

### Future challenges

Achieving the municipality's climate targets and contributing to the fulfilment of the Paris Agreement will require large emission reductions in a very short time. According to the municipality's climate budget, greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by at least 6% annually. At the latest measurement, the reduction was 2%. The biggest challenges for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Tierp municipality are to reduce transport emissions. However, a transition is required in the municipality's operations, in the business sector and among private individuals to achieve the goal.

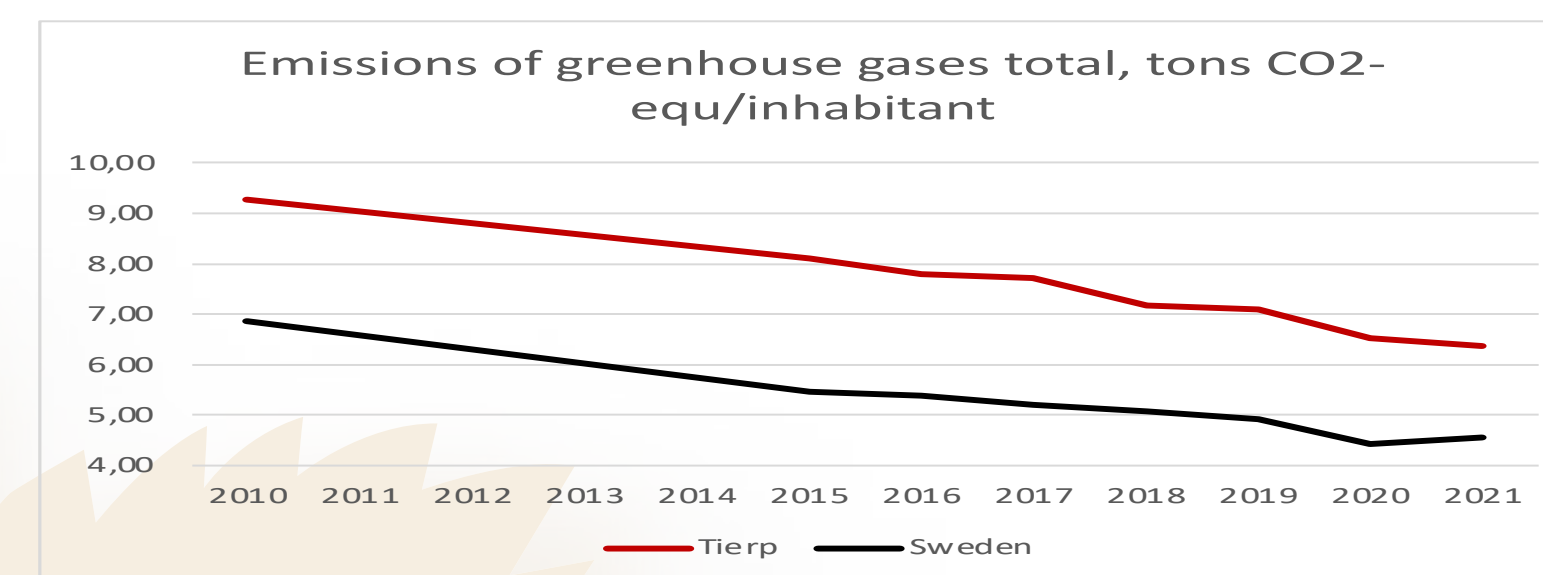


Diagram 13.1. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per capita have fallen steadily in the municipality since 1990, but at a pace too slow to achieve the climate target of net zero emissions by 2045. The majority of GHG emissions come from transport, with passenger transport accounting for the largest share. Transport accounts for more than 50 per cent of total emissions, work machinery for about 10 per cent and agriculture for about 27 per cent of emissions in the municipality as a geographical area.

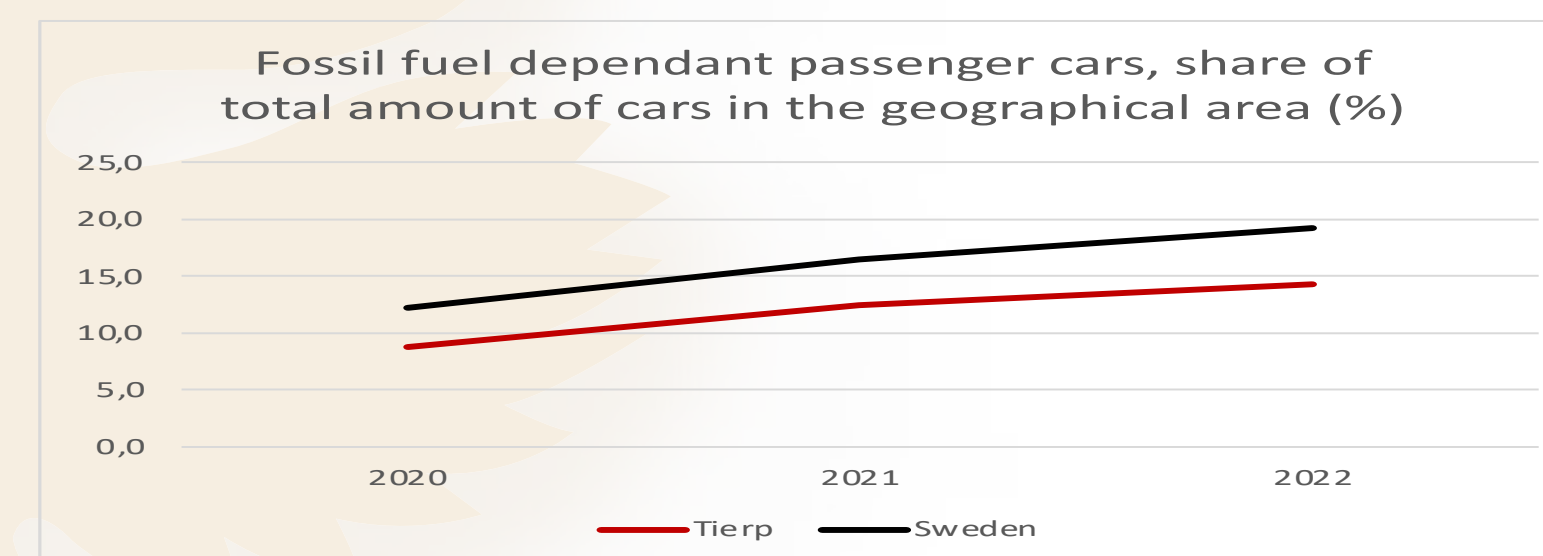


Diagram 13.2 The proportion of fossil-free cars has increased in recent years in the municipality, but still accounts for a relatively small proportion. In Tierp in 2022 14 per cent of passenger cars were fossil-free.



# SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES

## Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

Tierp's coastline is characterised by land raise, with shallow bays, puddles and wetlands. Dalälven river flows into the Baltic Sea and as the water flows independently of municipal and county borders, Tierp municipality is part of two water authorities: the Gulf of Bothnia and the Northern Baltic Sea Water District.

There are many stakeholders and conflicting interests connected to water including fishing, tourism, urban and rural development. Trade-offs and compromises are needed as well as innovative solutions for using water as a resource without having a negative impact on ecosystems.

The municipality has adopted five local targets in this area. To manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems, to reduce all forms of marine pollution, in particular from marine litter and nutrient inputs. It will also work to strengthen fish populations, promote sustainable recreational fishing and ensure that there is sufficient infrastructure to minimise the impact of recreational boating on marine ecosystems.

### Future challenges

The latest assessment of the National Environmental Objective *A balanced sea, a living coast and archipelago* is that it will not be achieved in the county and the trend is negative. Eutrophication and hazardous substances are major problems as are weak or collapsed fish stocks due to overfishing. Invasive species have also become an increasing problem for our sensitive marine environments. The conservation of marine resources requires a high level of international cooperation, as both causes and effects of human behaviour are transboundary.

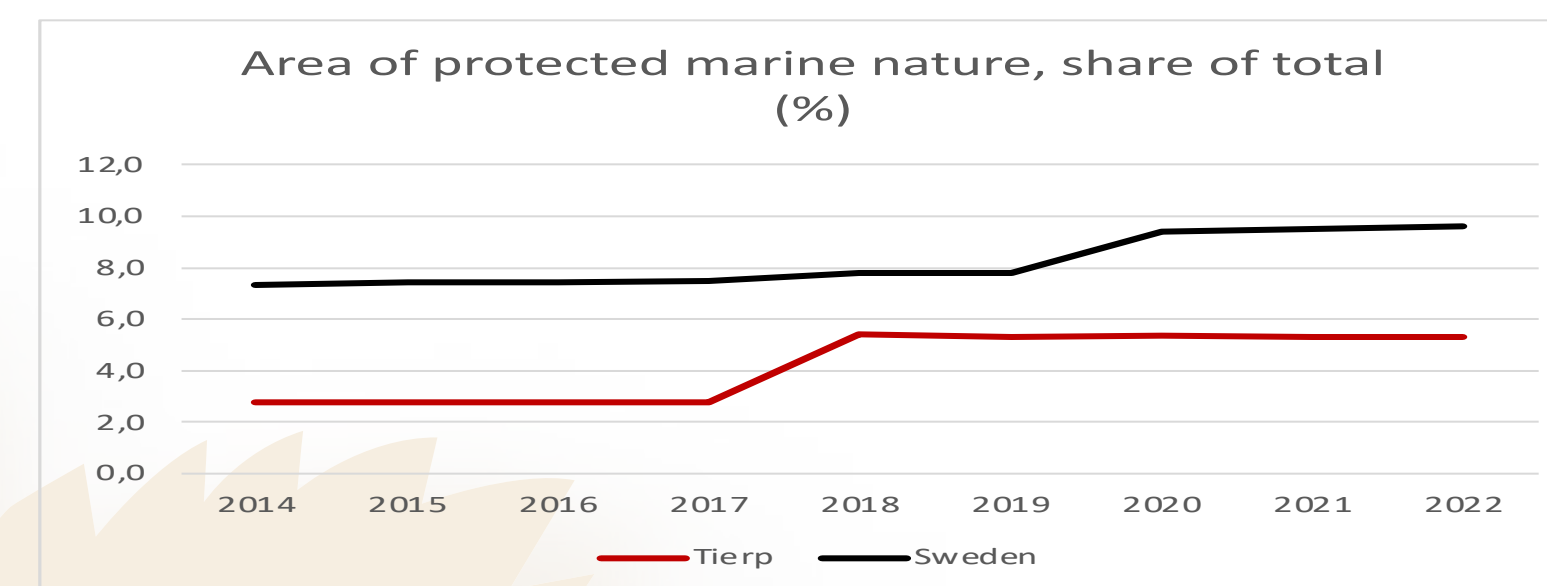


Diagram 14.1 The proportion of protected marine nature has increased in Tierp in recent years, but in comparison to other municipalities and in relation to the size of the municipality's coastline, it is at a low level.



# ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

## Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of ecosystems on land

Municipalities in Sweden are responsible for urban planning and nature conservation. Municipalities are also major landowners and can take measures to restore wetlands, choose sustainable forestry practices, promote ecosystem services and counteract the loss of biodiversity. At present, we lack good indicators to monitor this SDG at the municipal level. In the county, only two of the sixteen environmental objectives are on target to being achieved, or close to being achieved: a protective ozone layer and a safe radiation environment. The challenges ahead include the need for sustainable forestry and agricultural practices; however, the extraction of both forest and food is expected to increase.

The municipality has adopted four local targets in this area. These are to preserve biodiversity and safeguard valuable natural environments, to integrate urban greenery and ecosystem services in planning and construction, and to prevent the spread of invasive species. The municipality will also provide information on the natural and cultural values of urban environments to raise awareness among residents and visitors.

### Future challenges

Slowing down loss of biodiversity is crucial and in Tierp measures include safeguarding and extending the protection of areas of high environmental value, including in urban areas, working with the business community to promote more sustainable forestry and agriculture and to restore wetlands. In the municipality, it is also a matter of setting aside money to maintain existing nature reserves.

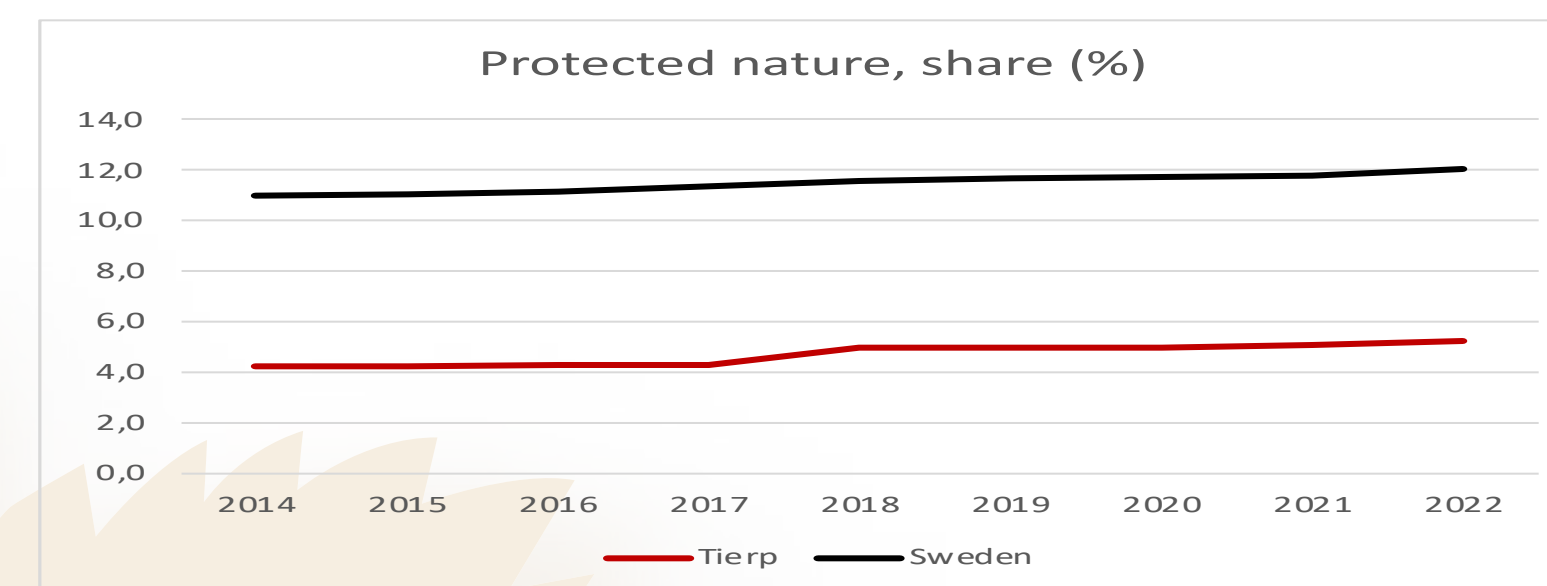


Diagram 15.1 Tierp municipality has a high proportion of protected nature with 25 nature reserves in total, 3 of which are owned by the municipality: Iggebo, Källarberget and Björns skärgård. In total, 5.3 per cent of the municipality's owned land consists of protected nature in the form of biotope protection, nature conservation areas or nature reserves. There are also areas with high nature and recreational values that currently lack formal protection.

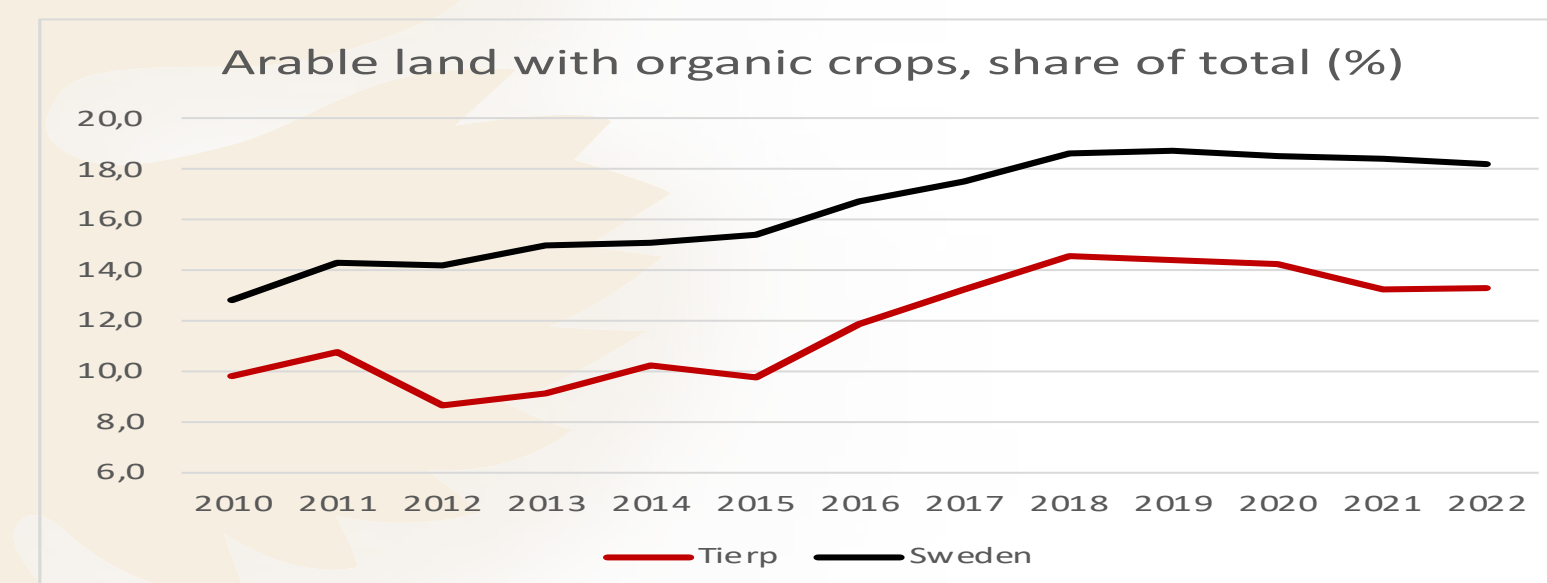


Diagram 15.2 The proportion of organically farmed arable land has decreased in the municipality after several years of increase. Organic farming favours biodiversity by not using chemical pesticides.





# PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

## Promote just and inclusive institutions for all

Sweden is a peaceful society and fulfils several of the targets of SDG16 with effective, transparent, and accountable institutions, ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms.

The prevalence of violence in various forms remains a challenge. The number of crimes in Sweden has remained at roughly the same level over the past decade, but the perception of insecurity has increased. In Tierp the number of reports of concern to social services regarding children's welfare has increased sharply in recent years and men's violence against women continues to be a problem.

The municipality has adopted eight local targets in this area. These include increasing citizen participation in the municipality's activities and development, increasing the safety and security of citizens through more crime prevention work, and increased crisis preparedness and resilience in the event of a crisis.

### Future challenges

To promote a peaceful and inclusive society, we need to find new forms and structures to strengthen democracy, the sense of community and opportunities to influence the municipality. The municipality must continuously work to adapt its activities to be relevant for all citizens, and to involve them as well as businesses and civil society to participate in societal development. The increased perceived insecurity in Tierp needs to be addressed. The number of violent crimes is slowly decreasing, but more needs doing, not least regarding violence against women and children.

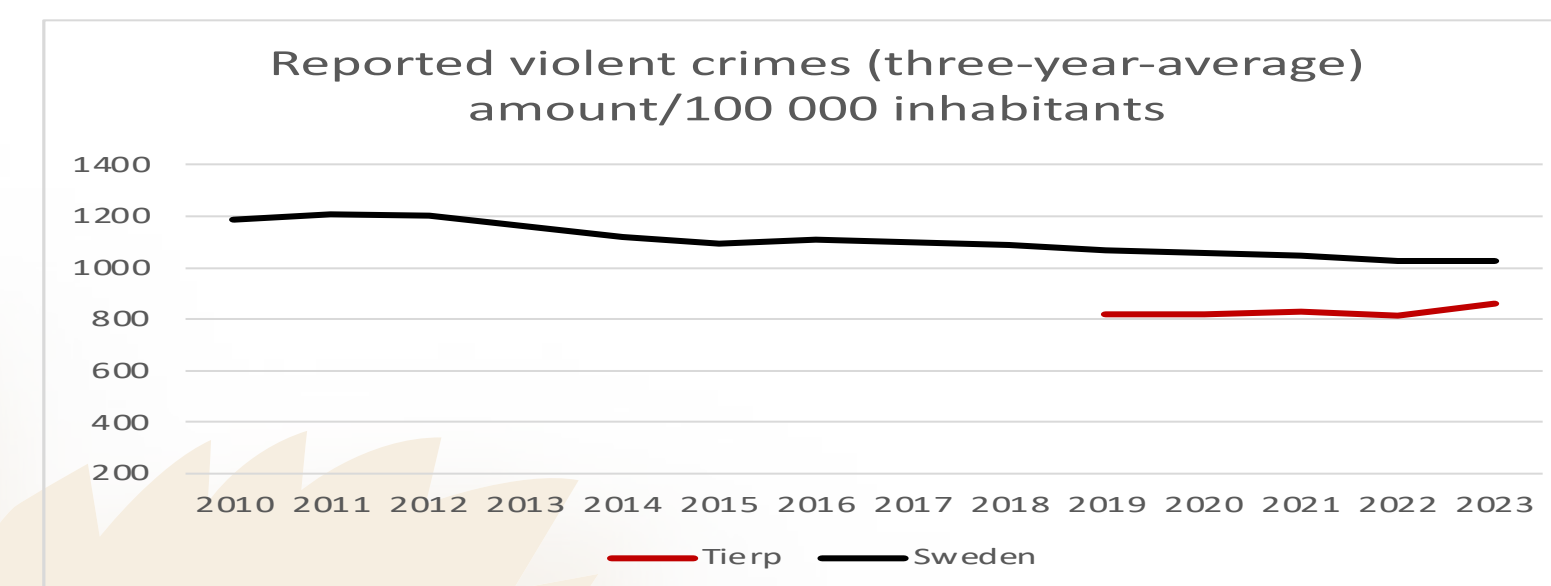


Diagram 16.1 The number of reported violent crimes has decreased in recent years, but it increased slightly in 2023. Men are more likely to be victims of assault and robbery, while women are more likely to be victims of sexual offences, threats and harassment.

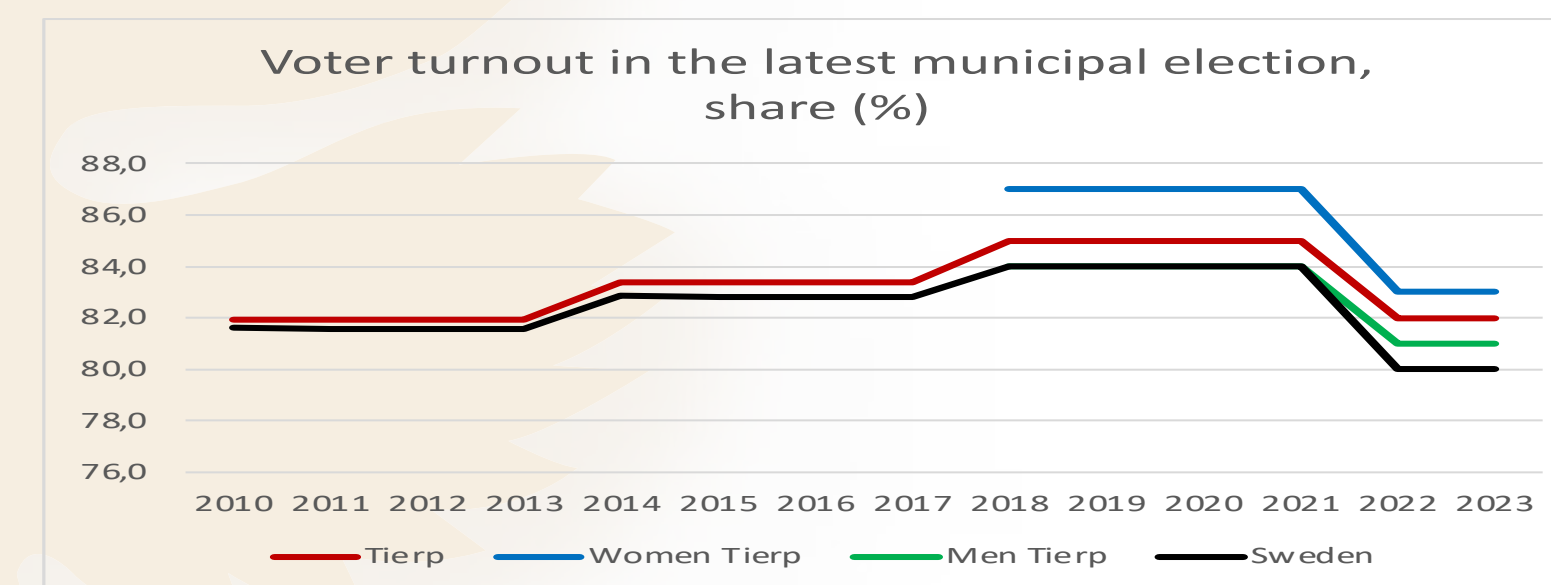
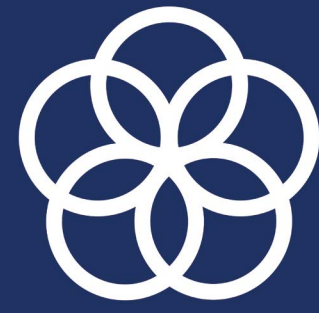


Diagram 16.2 Voter turnout in Tierp has increased for several consecutive elections but dropped significantly in the last election in 2022. The results also differ greatly between electoral districts: while turnout has increased in the electoral districts with the highest turnout while it has also fallen in the electoral districts with the lowest turnout. This indicates a divide in sense of legitimacy of the state/municipality, access to and feeling part of society which is often correlated to socio-economic realities. It also indicates that some are left behind in the work of building a sustainable society for all.



# PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the measures of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

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The goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are global in nature while a majority of the measures must be implemented at local level in close collaboration with society's stakeholders. In Tierp municipality, we have a good collaborative climate, and have long-standing collaborative networks with other municipalities, Region Uppsala, universities and local businesses.

In 2022 the municipality adopted a local agreement with civil society. The purpose of the agreement is to clarify and ameliorate collaboration and by extension contribute to a strengthening of local civil society.

The municipality has adopted three local targets in this area. To increase Tierp's collaboration and partnerships with other municipalities, Region Uppsala, businesses and civil society. The municipality's procurements shall contribute positively to the SDGs beyond the municipality's borders, and the municipality will work to increase the availability of information promoting sustainable choices to its citizens.

## **Future challenges**

There are several challenges in this area. Achieving policy coherence in the implementation of the SDGs at global, national and municipal level. Ensuring that businesses, civil society, citizens and municipal employees are given the opportunity to be involved in the work and have the opportunity to influence it.

The municipality can also do more to enable partnerships such as twinning with other countries and municipalities. By developing procurement practices that contribute to a more circular economy we can contribute toward achieving the SDGs outside of municipal borders. Increased collaboration with civil society and businesses is also crucial to the partnerships required for sustainable development.

# CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TIERP MUNICIPALITY

We are facing exciting and crucial times in the development of Tierp municipality. Given our responsibility for community planning, welfare services and local democracy, as well as being one of the larger employers we have the opportunity to influence development in a sustainable direction. With over 1,800 employees, 2,500 pupils in our schools and 1,000 recipients of care, the municipality's work has ripple effects throughout the community. Our report, Voluntary Local Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, shows that sustainability work is best carried out at the local level and in proximity to the citizens. It also shows that collaboration is essential to its success.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals needs continuous work and we are far from finished. Our report shows that there has been positive developments on social sustainability in the municipality, but we continue to face challenges of child poverty, mental health issues and poor school results, to name a few. There is mostly a positive trend regarding environmental sustainability, however climate emissions are not decreasing fast enough to achieve the climate goals. Economic sustainability requires prioritisation and a long-term approach as resources are limited. Largely, Tierp municipality has a positive impact on the fulfilment of the SDGs, but fall short on responsible consumption and climate impact as our local ecological footprints affect other countries' opportunities for prosperity and development.

An important challenge going forward is to target the municipality's efforts towards areas or groups at risk of being left behind in the development of society. In a small municipality, those at risk of being left behind are few but it is important that we follow-up how and where we conduct our activities to make sure that those who need them the most can access them.

In Tierp, sustainability should be norm. All examples in this report are about improving and developing processes - and when an initiative is over, knowledge and experience need to become incorporated parts of regular activities. For example, our initiatives on multilingualism, gender mainstreaming or nature conservation work have become part of regular working methods and governance. In this way, sustainability becomes part of how we define quality in our municipality.

There are many exciting things ahead - major investments in green transition are underway in our local area. At the same time, there are major challenges with an ageing population, shortages in skills supply and societal transition to achieve a fossil-free society. We cannot solve these challenges alone - we need citizens, businesses and civil society to join us on this journey. Local residents should not be seen as passive recipients of services, but as active co-creators in shaping sustainable development together with the municipality.

The journey has just begun, and we are ready to face the future with determination and vision. Let's go!

Helena Carlsson

