



VETLANDA
KOMMUN

The Municipality of Vetlanda

In Vetlanda, people as well as businesses and industries prosper. The Swedish word for municipality or community “*kommun*” comes from the classical Latin *communio*, which means an association. In some cases the classical Latin *commune* was used to mean people with a common interest. Thus, representatives and employees within Vetlanda kommun work together to meet our common interests, which can be as diverse as ranging from childcare to lake rehabilitation, and from library services to sewage mains construction.

Where the future begins

This is our Vision 2010: In Vetlanda, belief in the future, ingenuity and innovation prosper. Vetlanda offers quality of life and work, competence resources, a safe and secure environment, and a range of services and meeting places within close proximity. Vetlanda has the best business climate in the country, together with interesting and varied cultural and leisure activities and events.

People in Vetlanda

Vetlanda, which is a small town with a population of some 13,000, is set in a thriving countryside, where people and industries grow and develop. Each year about 250 new members are born into the community. The entire municipality has a population of 26,450 (2006).

The municipal budget

This consists of government subsidies (approx. 21 per cent) and income tax (approx. 76 per cent) which we all pay, and which this year amounts to 32.17 per cent, of which 21.50 is municipal tax.

For example, a person earning 20,000 SEK per month pays 1,478 SEK for education, 361 SEK for childcare services, and 126 SEK for leisure and cultural services and activities (see pie chart).

The largest municipal expenditures are salaries for staff within education, health care, childcare and care of the elderly. Of the municipal budget, the Childcare and Education Committee receives 34 per cent, and the Social Services Committee, 36 per cent. We see education as the key to future possibilities and opportunities. Together we care for our children and our elderly, and any member of our community who for some reason needs help and attention.

Going to Vetlanda

Vetlanda is some 40 km from the main railway junction in Nässjö. The nearest airports are in Jönköping, Växjö, Kalmar and Hultsfred. The distance to Malmö is 268 km, to Gothenburg 222 km and to Stockholm 330 km.

Working in Vetlanda

Vetlanda is a small town set in a living countryside where people and industries prosper. In 2004, the distribution of the adult working population was as follows:

39 per cent or 4,848 were working within the manufacturing or excavation industry; 15 per cent or 1,186 within health care and care services; and 2.1 per cent in public administration. No group of employees is considered to be more important than any other group in terms of size, payment, status, or in any other respect – all are needed in a vital and active society. The smallest group with identical employment circumstances consisted of 101 persons or 0.8 per cent of the working population, i.e. employees within waste management, energy production and water supply services.

The municipal administration

This is the body responsible for carrying out political decisions taken by the Central Executive Committee. It is headed by the Leading Councillor, Rolf Adolfsson, and consists of four executive offices which organise and provide services: the IT Services Department, the Finance and Accounts Department, the Personnel Department, and the Administrative Services Department

Five departments and their officers plan and carry out political decisions: Social Services (headed by Ola Götesson); Childcare and Education (headed by Hans Svensson); Culture and Leisure (headed by Thomas Hedrén); Planning and Environment (headed by Sven H Carlson); and Technical Services (headed by Gunnar Elmeke).

The municipal political leadership

The Municipal Assembly is the highest authority or local parliament of the Municipality of Vetlanda, i.e. its local *Riksdag*. The Municipal Executive Committee consists of local politicians whose parties won the General Election, i.e. similar to central government, who are responsible for implementing decisions taken. The Municipal Council also comprises a number of wholly owned companies.

The political parties currently represented in Assembly are: The Social Democratic Party (s); the Centre Party (c); Nya Moderaterna (m), the Liberal Party (fp), the Christian Democrats (kd), the Left Party (v), and the Green Party (mp).

The Municipal Assembly meets on the third Wednesday each month and its meetings are open for anyone who wants to listen. Each meeting starts with public question time. The Municipal Assembly decides on issues and matters concerning the entire municipality, such as budget matters and the use and size of taxes, fees and charges, and future uses of municipal incomes.

Democratic processes take time

Any decision taken by the Municipal Assembly must be carefully prepared by the corresponding municipal Board or Committee. This means that the decision-making process may take some time. However, it is vital that different opinions on municipal issues and matters are brought up and discussed. You are welcome to contact your local politician concerning any particular issue that you feel should be brought up for further discussion.

The municipal Boards and Committees

The municipal organisation comprises five different Boards and Committees, each with their particular field of responsibility: The Childcare and Education Committee; the Leisure Services Committee; the Planning and Environmental Services Committee; the Technical Services Committee, and the Social Services Committee. Members of these Committees are local politicians who are responsible for decisions taken. Municipal officers working within the various Departments handle daily affairs and carry out decisions.