

## Committee: Ordinary Council

Date: 19 November 2014

Wards: All

## Subject: Fairtrade resolution

Cabinet Member: Councillor Andrew Judge

Lead officer: Karin Lane, Head of Information Governance

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### Recommendations:

- A. That Council support and agree the proposed Fairtrade resolution as detailed in 2.8.
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## 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To review the council's commitment to Fairtrade and demonstrate it's continued support by passing the proposed Fairtrade resolution.

## 2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The aim is for Merton Council, as a service deliverer and community leader, to support and promote the Fairtrade Mark in pursuit of sustainable development, and to give marginalised producers a fair deal.
- 2.2. Fairtrade Merton was set up in 2005 with the strapline 'Small change locally; lives changed globally.'
- 2.3. The original Fairtrade resolution was passed at Ordinary Council on 22 February 2006, see Appendix A.
- 2.4. A Merton Council representative joined the Fairtrade Merton steering group in 2007.
- 2.5. Merton originally received Fairtrade status in February 2009 and then renewed successfully in April 2010 and December 2012. Merton's Fairtrade status is currently due for renewal.
- 2.6. There are five goals to be achieved for continuing Fairtrade status:
1. The local council passes a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and agrees to serve Fairtrade products
  2. A range of Fairtrade products are readily available in the area's shops and served in local cafés/catering establishments
  3. Local work places and community organisations (places of worship, schools, universities, colleges and other community organisations) support Fairtrade and use Fairtrade products whenever possible. Populations over 100,000 will also need a flagship employer
  4. Events and media coverage raise awareness and understanding of Fairtrade across the community.

5. A local Fairtrade steering group representing a range of local organisations and sectors meets regularly to ensure the Fairtrade Town continues to develop and gain support
- 2.7. As a Fairtrade Borough, Merton is also part of London's Fairtrade City status. The London Assembly continues to support Fairtrade and has urged all London Boroughs to renew their Fairtrade resolutions.
- 2.8. The proposed Fairtrade resolution to meet the five Fairtrade goals is:
- That the Council resolves to renew its promise to promote the application of Fairtrade principles and environmental justice in support of the Thematic Partnership 'Sustainable Communities and Transport'. In this, Merton Council will:
    - review, and where appropriate, amend its own practices as a demonstration of leading by example, including where value for money can be demonstrated, using Fairtrade Mark products;
    - ensure this philosophy is carried through in the way the council delivers services and works with its partners, the voluntary sector and businesses;
    - as a practical demonstration support the Fairtrade Merton steering group through:
      - a dedicated link officer in the council;
      - attendance at steering group meetings by council representative;
      - the council to publicise Fairtrade and associated events;
      - the council to support Fairtrade Merton with support for administrative tasks in promoting Fairtrade e.g. printing promotional material;
      - the Leader of the Council and all other party leaders supporting Fairtrade in council activities and through their activities;
      - the support of Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration; and
      - the support for Fairtrade events by the Mayor.
- 2.9 Continuing Fairtrade accreditation supports the council's Climate Change Strategy and also forms part of the council's overall Good food for London score.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. The council could choose not to support Fairtrade which would negatively affect the renewal status of Fairtrade Merton.

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. To be agreed with immediate effect, to support Fairtrade Merton's renewal application.

### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. There is currently no financial implication for the council in its use of Fairtrade products, as Fairtrade products are only used when value for money can be demonstrated.
- 6.2. The resource implication is the continued support of a named council officer to be an active part of the Fairtrade Merton steering group and some marginal costs in printing promotional material for Fairtrade events.
- 6.3. There are no property implications.

## **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

## **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. Fairtrade ensures better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world, who are amongst the most marginalised groups globally.

## **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

## **10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

## **11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

- Appendix A – original Fairtrade resolution.

## **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1. None for the purposes of this report.

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