

Committee: Council

Date: 5 February 2020

Wards: All

Subject: Fairtrade resolution

Cabinet Member: Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah

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 its' 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 Council on 22 February 2006 and a revised version passed at Council on 19 November 2014.
- 2.4. A Merton Council representative joined the Fairtrade Merton steering group in 2007.
- 2.5. Merton originally received Fairtrade status in 2009 and has successfully renewed every two years. Our current Fairtrade status has been renewed by the Fairtrade Foundation until October 2021.
- 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.
- 2.8. The proposed Fairtrade resolution to meet the five Fairtrade goals is:

This council notes that:

- 2019 marks 25 years since the FAIRTRADE Mark was launched in the UK.
- Since 1994, consumer demand for Fairtrade has grown thanks to the efforts of grassroots campaigners, and pioneering Fair Trade businesses.
- There are now over 600 Fairtrade Communities in the UK and more than 2,000 globally.
- As a result of Fairtrade commitments from mainstream brands and retailers, the UK Fairtrade market is now one of the biggest in the world.
- Global Fairtrade sales last year generated £142 million in Fairtrade Premium. Farmers in 73 countries have invested this money in their communities, increasing business productivity and contributing to the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Despite this positive news, exploitation remains rampant in global supply chains. More than 40 million people are trapped in modern slavery, including forced labour, and 152 million young people in child labour. Hundreds of millions more are earning less than a living income or wage.

This council believes that:

- Fairtrade and the wider Fair Trade movement has a significant contribution to make towards ending exploitation in global supply chains and achieving the SDGs.
- The recently agreed [International Fair Trade Charter](#) should be welcomed, with its vision of transforming trade to work for people and planet.
- The Fairtrade principles of paying a 'premium' that is wholly managed by farmers and workers themselves, and of minimum prices to protect producers from market volatility, are crucial to systemic change.
- Public bodies, including local authorities, should support ethical procurement policies, using their purchasing power to support Fairtrade and ensure their supply chains, at home and abroad, are free of exploitation, including modern slavery.
- Companies operating through global supply chains should go further and take steps to require the payment of living wages and achievement of living incomes for all.

This council resolves to:

- Renew its commitment to achieve 'Fairtrade Town' status.
- Actively promote Fairtrade locally, through support, celebration and championing for local groups and businesses who support Fairtrade, in the media including social media, and events, including during Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Promote Fairtrade in its Schools.
- Review its procurement policy, including its catering offer, to ensure that Fairtrade produce is chosen wherever possible, and that Fair Trade considerations are included as a preference in any contracts going out to tender.

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**
- 12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**
- 12.1. None for the purposes of this report.