
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	29 June 2017
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	IC/05/17/RL
Contact Officer:	Robert Lamb	Contact No:	01475 715548
Subject:	Fairtrade Steering Group / Status Update		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the current position relating to Fairtrade Zone Status and the role of the Council for the way forward and remaining a Fairtrade Zone.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In June of 2012 the Council agreed to support the application for Inverclyde to become a Fairtrade Zone. It was estimated that to achieve this status would take approximately 12 – 18 months. The application process began February 2013.
- 2.2 Fairtrade Zone Status was successfully achieved in December 2013, way ahead of the expected timeframe. Feedback from the National Fairtrade evaluation team was extremely positive and complimented the partnership work that had been achieved.
- 2.3 In April 2015 the Council submitted an application to have its Fairtrade Zone Status approved/extended for a further 2 years. This was successful and continued 2 year status was granted June 2015.
- 2.4 The next renewal application is due in June 2017.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Council supports the renewal process and that Fairtrade Status continues to have the support of elected members, it being envisaged that the lead role will be passed to the community as recommended by the Fairtrade Foundation at last renewal.
- 3.2 That the Council continues to support the Fairtrade Goals.
- 3.3 That the Council notes the appointment of Councillors Ahlfeld, Murphy and Nelson to the Fairtrade Steering Group to support Fairtrade Status.
- 3.4 That the Council continues to encourage the use of fairly traded goods, for example products carrying the Fairtrade mark, when catering for civic functions, internal and external Council meetings and Council led conferences and events.
- 3.5 That ,wherever possible, fairly traded options be included in relevant tenders.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Fairtrade guarantees a better deal for third world producers. Fairtrade gives power back to both producers and consumers - producers get fair wages, good working conditions, help with the development of products and marketing, while consumers are given the choice to make a difference by buying Fairtrade products whenever they can.

Fairtrade organisations and advocates share and support the following principles for trading relationships:

- **Creating opportunities for economically disadvantaged producers**

Fairtrade is a strategy for poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Its purpose is to create opportunities for producers who have been economically disadvantaged or marginalised by the conventional trading system.

- **Transparency and accountability**

Fairtrade involves developing transparent management and commercial relations to deal fairly and respectfully with trading partners.

- **Capacity building**

Fairtrade is a means to develop producers' independence. Fairtrade relationships provide continuity, during which producers and their marketing organisations can improve their management skills and their access to new markets.

- **Payment of a fair price**

A fair price in the regional or local context is one that has been agreed through dialogue and participation. It covers not only the costs of production but enables production which is socially just and environmentally sound. It provides fair pay to the producers and takes into account the principle of equal pay for equal work by women and men. Fairtraders ensure prompt payment to their partners and, whenever possible, help producers with access to pre-harvest or pre-production financing.

- **Gender equality**

Fairtrade means that women's work is properly valued and rewarded. Women are always paid for their contribution to the production process and are empowered in their organisations.

- **Working conditions**

Fairtrade means a safe and healthy working environment for producers. The participation of children (if any) does not adversely affect their well-being, security, educational requirements and need for play and conforms to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the law and norms in the local context.

- **Environmental protection**

Fairtrade actively encourages better environmental practices and the application of responsible methods of production.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 5.1 Financial Implications:

No implications are anticipated, the Council may be asked to contribute to meeting/administration costs which will be contained within Education and Communities Budget.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

5.2 No known legal implications.

Human Resources

5.3 There will be resource implications in staff time to carry out the audits, awareness raising sessions and educational presentations and providing administrative support to the Steering Group, all of which can be met from existing resources. There will also need to be a continued support from the Council and local members across the authority, to promote Fairtrade events.

Equalities

5.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

5.5 No known repopulation implications.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 N/A.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 N/A.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 N/A.