
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	1 September 2020
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/43/20/AW
Contact Officer:	Alana Ward, Service Manager	Contact No:	01475 712347
Subject:	Reaffirming Inverclyde's commitment to Fairtrade		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Education and Communities Committee on the current position relating to Inverclyde's Fairtrade Zone Status and to seek approval for plans to reaffirm Inverclyde Council's support for Fairtrade.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde Council has been awarded Fairtrade Zone Status in the past, however this status is not current and officers are currently ascertaining what would be required in order to renew this status. Notwithstanding the loss of Zone Status, fairtrade activity in Inverclyde remains strong and there is an active community group.
- 2.2 It would aid the process of regaining Zone Status to have the ongoing support of elected members to renew the Zone Status.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee:
- notes the current Fairtrade Zone Status in Inverclyde;
 - agrees that officers will make a renewed application for Fairtrade Zone Status for Inverclyde;

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Fairtrade guarantees a better deal for developing world producers. Fairtrade gives power back to both producers and consumers – producers get fair wages, good working conditions, help with the development of production and marketing, while consumers are given the choice to make a difference by buying Fairtrade products whenever they can.
- 4.2 Inverclyde Council successfully achieved Fairtrade Zone status in December 2013 and renewed this status in June 2015. The next date for renewal was June 2017, however this deadline was not met and consequently Inverclyde does not currently have Fairtrade Zone status.
- 4.3 Although Inverclyde does not currently have Fairtrade Zone Status, there has been continued Fairtrade activity happening in the community. Community representatives still support Early Years/Primary/Secondary establishments with Fairtrade goods and at least 9 get regular supplies. In addition, there are regular 'pop up' sales of Fairtrade goods across Inverclyde, most recently selling Fairtrade face coverings in response to Covid-19.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Discussions are underway with the Scottish Fair Trade Forum on whether it is possible to renew Inverclyde's application at this time, or if a full new application will be required. A delayed renewal would be an easier process than a new application. As part of this process, the Council will require to commit to supporting Fairtrade goals, such as using Fairtrade products at meetings and catering outlets; actively promoting Fairtrade Fortnight; promoting Fairtrade in procurement wherever possible, etc. Depending on which option goes ahead, this process is likely to take up to 12 months to complete. It is proposed that officers will make a renewed application for Fairtrade Zone Status for Inverclyde.
- 5.2 It would aid the renewal process to have full continued support from elected members in addition to representation on the Fairtrade community group. At present, Councillors Murphy, Nelson and Ahlfeld are the Council representatives and Councillor Graeme Brooks sits on the community group in a personal capacity.
- 5.3 Once Fairtrade Zone status has been achieved, it would be possible to install visual signage recognising Inverclyde as a Fairtrade zone.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

Nominal costs associated with subscribing to the Scottish Fairtrade Forum and marketing/promotion materials are met within the existing Education budget. There would be some additional cost for Fairtrade Signage but this is a yet unknown.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
Education					

6.2 Legal

There are no known legal implications contained in this report.

6.3 Human Resources

Officer time will be required to support the community group in the achievement of Fairtrade Zone status, however this can be met within existing resources.

6.4 Equalities

Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
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NO

6.5 **Repopulation**

There are no known repopulation implications contained within this report.

7.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 None.

8.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None.