

A model local authority motion on Fairtrade

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/commit to achieve 'Fairtrade Community' status.
- Actively promote Fairtrade locally, through support for local groups, in the media including social media, and events, including during Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Support local Fairtrade Schools and Universities, and actively promote Fairtrade teaching materials in local schools and educational institutions.
- Celebrate and incentivise businesses championing Fairtrade products in the local community.
- 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.

Further information and notes to accompany this motion:

The FAIRTRADE Mark is 25 years old, and the Fairtrade Foundation invites local authorities to renew their commitment to creating a fairer global trade system and tackling poverty in supply chains.

Both staff and elected representatives of over 500 local councils, alongside committed supporters, progressive businesses and thousands of other community groups, have played a significant role in growing the Fairtrade system to now include over 1.66 million farmers and workers in more than 70 countries, and catalyse a huge shift in attitudes to ethical purchasing here in the UK.

This motion is a template and we invite you to personalise it to recognise particular local achievements or resolutions.

We are focusing our 25th anniversary celebrations in early October 2019 and so we suggest tabling this motion for early autumn to coincide with nationwide PR, online and community activities.

Make the most of Fairtrade's 25th birthday!

There are many ways to communicate your council's commitment – and celebrate individuals and groups who have played an important role in growing Fairtrade locally. An activity guide will be available in mid-May with ideas for celebrating with the community.

The [International Fair Trade Charter](#) unites more than 250 organisations to set down the fundamental principles of Fair Trade, and define a common vision towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Find [more on Fairtrade and public procurement](#), including a list of suppliers of Fairtrade products and tips on asking for Fairtrade in contracts and tender documents.

Get in touch with any questions, or update us on your motion or other commitments, by contacting Chrysi Dimaki at volunteer.towns@fairtrade.org.uk