



**Report to:** Council

**Date of Meeting:** 30 March 2006

**Report from:** Environmental Health Manager

**Title of Report:** Fairtrade Council

**Agenda Item Number:** 9

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## **1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek support for the Council to pass a resolution to become a fairtrade Council. This would include giving its support to the sale of Fairtrade goods and the Fairtrade steering committee set up to achieve Fairtrade Town status. Additionally the Council will be committing to promoting Fairtrade issues and to only use Fairtrade products such as tea and coffee at all its meetings. The adoption of this resolution is essential as part of the campaign for Chester-le-Street to achieve Fairtrade Town status.
- 1.2 This proposal was accepted by Green ARP and COMT. A study identifying fairtrade outlets, external support and the formation of a steering group was carried out between the acceptance by Green ARP and the presentation to COMT
- 1.3 The recommendation is to support and take forward the proposal to pass a Fairtrade resolution

## **2. CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place over a year period where information and tasting sessions have been carried out to address issues with the staff and public such as taste and the price of fairly traded goods. The catering suppliers have been contacted over supplying Fairtrade goods for internal meetings and they have agreed to keep the price constant. Legal have ensured that the supply of fairly traded goods complies with the guidance on Fair and Ethical Trading issued by the Office of Government Commerce. The equalities and diversity group have been consulted with regard the council supporting Fairtrade and have strongly supported the actions.

### **3. CORPORATE PLAN AND PRIORITIES**

- 3.1 The Proposal fits under Priority 2 of the Corporate Plan “Working in Partnership to deliver the Community Strategy”. This in turn relates to Priority 14 “To manage our natural environment in a sustainable way...”

### **4. IMPLICATIONS**

#### 4.1 Financial

The catering suppliers have been contacted over supplying Fairtrade goods for internal meetings and they have agreed to keep the price constant.

#### 4.2 Legal

There are no legal implications. The steering group is external to the council. The resolution proposed would require the council to support Fair trade. Under the government and EU procurement rules, Fair trade products can be included as options within any procurement specifications, but they cannot be framed in terms of fair trade requirements.

#### 4.3 Personnel

Officer support is required on the fairtrade steering committee. This would fall under the duties of the Sustainability Team.

#### 4.4 Other Services

There would be no implications for other services other than the encouragement to start to use fairly traded goods within their own teams.

#### 4.5 Diversity

The Original LA21 Strategy under Communities section C7 states “Take responsibility for the impacts we have on other countries especially the developing world”. Supporting fairtrade goods, its promotion and the steering group set up to achieve fairtrade town status will highlight the importance of buying these goods to local residents and the assistance and support they can give to developing countries during everyday shopping.

#### 4.6 Risk

#### 4.7 Crime and Disorder

There will be no impact on Crime or Disorder

#### 4.8 Other Implications

## **5. BACKGROUND, POSITION STATEMENT AND OPTION APPRAISAL**

- 5.1 Fairtrade means guaranteeing that producers in poor countries receive a fair price for the goods that they produce or, if they work on a plantation, that they enjoy decent wages and working conditions. It means they are paid a price that reflects the true costs of production, and allows for investment in their communities or in their businesses. With a fair price for their produce, they can not only feed their families, but also look to the future and invest in such basic necessities as safe water supplies, sanitation, healthcare and education.
- 5.2 Chester-le-Street DC were represented on a regional wide LA21 forum by the Senior Sustainability Officer. At this meeting held during 2004 the group were asked by OXFAM to support an idea to make the North East the world's first fairtrade region.
- 5.3 To achieve this status all local authorities have to pass a resolution to support fairtrade and work towards achieving fairtrade town / city status.
- 5.4 Fairtrade town / City status is attained by achieving the following 5 objectives:
  - 5.4.1 The local Council must pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and serve fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings and in offices and canteens.
  - 5.4.2 A range of Fairtrade products must be readily available in the areas shops and served in local cafes and catering establishments (targets are set in relation to population).
  - 5.4.3 Fairtrade products must be used by a number of local work places (estate agents, hairdressers) etc and community organisations (churches, schools etc).
  - 5.4.4 The Council must attract popular support for the campaign.
  - 5.4.5 A local fairtrade steering group must be convened to ensure continued commitment to fairtrade town status.
- 5.5 Councillor Alan Holden has agreed to be the Fairtrade Champion for the Council and arranged a presentation for full council providing members with a greater understanding of fairtrade and the opportunity to taste some products.
- 5.6 A steering committee has been started to achieve Fairtrade Town status. It presently has 16 members from different areas of the local community including representation from traders, schools, Churches and interested residents.
- 5.7 To achieve Fairtrade status Chester-le-Street needs 5 café selling FT and 9 retailers (selling 2 or more products). We have achieved these targets.

<b>Known Café presently selling Fair trade</b>
Costa Coffee
Thornton's
Parish Centre Coffee lounge
Chester-le-Street Train Station
Chester-le-Street Methodist Church Cafe

<b>Known Retailers presently selling Fair Trade products (2 or more products)</b>
Co-op- Great Lumley store
Co-op- Pelton store
Co-op- Chester-le-Street Front street store
Co-op- Sacriston store
Tesco's
St Mary and St Cuthbert's Parish Centre stall
Hermitage Secondary school- young co-operative
Oxfam
Chester-le-Street Methodist Church Stall

- 5.8 A presentation on fairtrade was given to the Chief Officers by the Sustainability Team on 22<sup>nd</sup> February where the commitment to support fairtrade from officer level was approved.
- 5.9 During fairtrade Fortnight (March 6<sup>th</sup> to March 19<sup>th</sup>) Two events were held in Chester-le-Street. The first event held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March was an information event where a stall in St Cuthbert's Walk gave away samples and leaflets on fairtrade. The second event on 17<sup>th</sup> March had four stalls giving away free samples and selling goods on the market and an information point in St Cuthbert's walk. A Fairtrade producer visited the district along with representatives on the Adavasi community in India who produce tea sold by the Hermitage young co-operative. An event was held at Ouston Primary school where Two Indian dancers also performed and a presentation was held with Cllr Turner presenting the producer and Adavasi community with gifts from Chester-le-Street.
- 5.10 If agreed, upon passing a resolution to support Fairtrade, Chester-le-Street can apply to be awarded Fairtrade Town Status. The district will then become the first in County Durham to achieve this.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council to pass a resolution to support Fairtrade and to put the necessary arrangements in place to support the steering committee.
- 6.2 To agree to serve only Fairtrade Tea and Coffee at all future council meetings.

**7. BACKGROUND PAPERS / DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO**

7.1 Office of Government Commerce, Guidance on Fair and Ethical Trading

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<b>DATE OF REPORT</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> March 06</b>
<b>VERSION NUMBER</b>	<b>1</b>

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