

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 August 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Fairtrade Status for Biggar
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ seek approval to support the Biggar Fairtrade Town Steering Group (BFTSG) in establishing Biggar as a Fairtrade town

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that the Council supports the Biggar Fairtrade Town Steering Group (BFTSG) in establishing Biggar as a Fairtrade town.

3. Background

3.1 South Lanarkshire has previously supported Fairtrade by becoming one of a number of councils achieving Fairtrade status. This status has lapsed but we have supported a number of our communities achieve Fairtrade Town status. In this regard, it is not a requirement that the local authority has Fairtrade status in order to support a Fairtrade town accreditation. In this respect, it is noted that the following towns are Fairtrade towns: Rutherglen, Cambuslang, East Kilbride, Strathaven, Hamilton and Uddingston whose accreditations support Scotland as a Fairtrade Nation. Whilst not currently a Fairtrade Council, we continue to use Fairtrade products within a number of the Council's staff catering outlets, including meeting room hospitality and in school catering facilities. The objectives of Fairtrade are set out in Section 4 of this report.

3.2 The BFTSG contacted the Council in June 2017 seeking its support for the establishment of Biggar Fairtrade Town, as formal recognition by the local authority is one of the conditions which must be met to achieve accreditation. This Group is led by the community and has their general support through representation from a selection of the town's organisations and businesses on its committee and also the various events through which it promotes the Fairtrade ethos in the town. There may be potential economic benefits of Fairtrade status to the town in terms of increased marketing and promotional opportunities.

4. Fairtrade Town Objectives

4.1 The objective of a Fairtrade town is to contribute to the Fairtrade Foundation's aim. This seeks to tackle poverty by enabling disadvantaged food producers from developing countries to receive a better deal, through encouraging support for the "Fairtrade Mark". Fairtrade is not about charity, but giving a fair deal to marginalised third world producers. In order to become a Fairtrade town, the following five conditions must be realised:-

- ◆ The local Council must support the Fairtrade town and supply Fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings and in its offices and canteens
- ◆ A range of Fairtrade products must be readily available in the town's shops and served in local cafes/catering establishments
- ◆ Fairtrade products should be used by local businesses and community organisations
- ◆ Media coverage must be attracted and there must be popular support for the campaign
- ◆ A local Fairtrade Steering Group must be convened to ensure continued commitment to its Fairtrade status

4.2 The relevant condition for the Council is set out in the first bullet point. In this respect, this report seeks to gain that approval from the Committee to Support Biggar in its aim to be a Fairtrade Town. Secondly, the Council is already using Fairtrade products in many of the staff catering outlets, through meeting room hospitality and in school catering facilities. On this basis, it is considered that support can be given to Biggar.

4.3 Once the above five points are met, BFTSG can make an application to the Fairtrade Foundation to become a Fairtrade Town. On Fairtrade status being confirmed, Biggar will be able to call itself a Fairtrade Town and it will be for the BFTSG to continue local promotion and record evidence of its work to satisfy the Foundation's requirements to maintain its status as Fairtrade town.

5. Employee Implications

5.1 There are no employee implications in relation to this proposal.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no other financial implications for the Council.

7. Other Implications

7.1 There are no risks to the Council associated with proceeding with this proposal.

7.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

8 Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

8.1 The BFTSG has consulted with the local business community. Within the Council, consultation has previously taken place on the principles of Fairtrade with Education, Finance and Corporate Resources and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture.

8.2. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

7 August 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- The proposal links to the Council's policies on Learning in the Community and "Supporting our Communities"

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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