

Report

Report to:	Climate Change and Sustainability Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 September 2020
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Council Fairtrade Zone Status Renewed
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- ♦ provide an update to the Committee of the successful renewal of the Council Fairtrade Zone status.

2. Recommendation

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):

- (1) that it be noted that the Council's Fairtrade Zone status had been renewed on 6 February 2020.

3. Background

3.1. Fairtrade is an alternative approach to conventional trade between developing and developed countries which seeks to promote responsible trade. Principles of Fairtrade include:-

- ♦ payment of fair prices to producers as well as a premium to improve their social, economic and environmental conditions
- ♦ transparent commercial relationships
- ♦ good working conditions
- ♦ no child labour, no forced labour and no discrimination including gender equity
- ♦ conservation and preservation of the environment

3.2. Communities (town, city, zone or any other geographical areas) can apply to achieve Fairtrade status. It shows the communities' commitment in supporting Fairtrade principles and using licensed products with the Fairtrade Mark. Over 600 communities across the UK have achieved Fairtrade status.

3.3. In South Lanarkshire, the following towns have achieved the Fairtrade status and are actively supporting Fairtrade principles: Biggar, East Kilbride, Hamilton and Strathaven, which was the first Fairtrade town in Scotland.

- 3.4. South Lanarkshire Council achieved the Fairtrade Zone status in 2013 following an application made by the South Lanarkshire Fairtrade Steering Group. The application was supported by the Council with the Executive Committee of 13 February 2013 noting the successful application of the Council as Fairtrade Zone.
- 3.5. Despite the fact that the Council had continued to support Fairtrade principles by serving Fairtrade tea and coffee, its status was not renewed. Renewal has to be carried out one year after the status is achieved and then every two years.
- 3.6. On 22 January 2019, the Council agreed to renew its Fairtrade zone status with a report approved by the Community and Enterprise Resources ("Renewal of the Council Fairtrade Zone Status"). In particular, it was agreed to progress towards the five goals required to renew the status.

4. Fairtrade Zone Status Renewed

- 4.1. Following the Council's agreement in January 2019, progress was made on the 5 goals, detailed below, that then allowed an application form to be submitted to the Fairtrade Foundation in December 2019. In turn, the Foundation certified that South Lanarkshire Council was a Fairtrade Zone and that the status was achieved on 6 February 2020. Together with the certificate, the Council has received a congratulations cover letter as well as a feedback report.
- 4.2. To renew the Fairtrade Zone status, five goals, as defined by the Fairtrade Foundation, were taken forward and achieved, and these are set out below.

Goals	Action undertaken
<u>1. Local Council Resolution</u> Pass a resolution through committee approval to renew the support to Fairtrade and confirm that Fairtrade tea and coffee are served at meetings, in offices and canteens.	This goal has been achieved by reporting the matter to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee on 22 January 2019. Moreover, support to Fair Trade is part of the intention of the Good Food Strategy. Use of Fairtrade products within the Council is in place and spending allocated to these products are monitored as planned in the Good Food Strategy action plan 2020/2021.
<u>2. Fairtrade in Local Work Places and Organisations</u> Update the list of workplaces and community organisations using Fairtrade products and identify a flagship employer.	With support from the steering group, the list of workplaces and community organisations has been updated. At least 35 Faith and Community organisations are supporting Fair Trade principles and 47 schools are registered with the Fairtrade Foundation. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has been identified as the flagship employer.
<u>3. Fairtrade Products Available Locally</u> Update the list of Fairtrade products available in the area's retail outlets and served in local catering outlets. The target (estimated on the basis of the population size) was the	The list of Fairtrade products has been updated with the help of the steering group. It is estimated that 61 retailers and 39 catering outlets support Fairtrade across 22 towns and places in South Lanarkshire.

following: 43 retails and 22 in catering outlets supporting Fairtrade.	
<u>4. Attract Media Coverage</u> Work with Corporate Communications on a publicity campaign on approval of the report which will include social media.	List of media coverage during the last year and half was built with support from the steering group.
<u>5. Establish a Steering Group</u> Establish steering group with Council representatives, Fairtrade towns and other people representing the community.	A steering group with representatives from Fairtrade towns has been established and is programmed to meet twice a year. Attended Fairtrade Towns, private sector, community representatives, elected representatives and facilitated by the Food Policy Officer the group has met 3 times. However, the proposed June 2020 meeting was cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

4.3. Now that the status has been achieved, it has to be renewed the following year i.e. before 6 February 2021. This implies monitoring and recording progress around the goals, namely, list of Fairtrade products, list of Fairtrade places, media coverage and organisations of steering group meetings.

4.4 Renewal of the Fairtrade Zone Status was officially announced during the Fairtrade Fortnight in March 2020 with the publication of a press release and news articles. Moreover, Fairtrade exhibitions took place in three libraries (Avondale Community Wing, EK Central library, Biggar Library) and in Horizons within the Council Offices during the same period to celebrate this achievement.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. The Policy Officer for Food Development, on behalf of the Fairtrade steering group, will be responsible for renewing the Fairtrade Zone status before 6 February 2021.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report, at this stage but this will be monitored through the application process and implications reported through future update reports.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

7.1. Under the climate change duties local authorities are key to driving behavioural change within Scotland and helping meet national targets. Conservation and preservation of the environment is one of the Fairtrade key principles which is also in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

8. Other Implications

8.1. There are no risk implications in terms of the proposals contained within this report and the Council achieving Fairtrade status would further enhance the Councils sustainability ambitions.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Michael McGlynn

Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

28 August 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ♦ Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities.

Previous References

- ♦ Executive Committee report, 13 February 2013 - Fairtrade Zone
- ♦ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, 21 August 2018 - Fairtrade Status for Biggar
- ♦ Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, 22 January 2019 – Renewal of the Council Fairtrade Status

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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