

Harborough District Council

Report to the Council Meeting of 20th June 2022



Report Number:	11
Title:	Support for Market Harborough Fairtrade Town Renewal
Status:	Public
Key Decision:	N/A
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Portfolio Holder:	Details can be found here
Appendices:	None

Executive Summary

Market Harborough as Fairtrade Town needs to demonstrate support from the Council for Fairtrade activity within the town, in order to renew its status as a Fairtrade Town. The Council have demonstrated support through incorporating Fairtrade requirements in procurement policies.

Recommendations

To endorse the support for the renewal application for Market Harborough to retain status as a Fairtrade town

Reasons for Recommendations

An application for Fairtrade Status requires the support of the local authority in order to achieve the renewal of the status.

1. Purpose of Report

To seek member support for the application by Market Harborough Fairtrade Town Group in their application for the renewal of Fairtrade town status.



2. Background

Market Harborough became a Fairtrade town in 2006; the first town to do so in Leicestershire. This status is renewed periodically, and the last renewal was in 2018. The Market Harborough Fairtrade Town Group will be applying for renewal in the summer of 2022. Any Fairtrade Town group must demonstrate local council support for their promotion of Fairtrade, in order to achieve renewal.

3. Details

Market Harborough Fair Trade Town Group promotes Fairtrade throughout the year. There is a particular focus on Fairtrade Fortnight from the end of February to the Middle of March. There are a number of activities, including an annual schools baking competition and recently a Fairtrade Coffee loyalty card supported by local cafes. The Group also take part in other activities including, Sundae on a Saturday, participating in the Town Carnival and other local events. Fairtrade is well supported in the Town, with all of the local places of worship actively involved and a large number of cafes and retailers selling fair trade produce and advertising the fact with window stickers. Food, clothes, craft items and homewares are available in around 30 independent and national stores, including stalls in the Market Hall (Mrs J's Eggs ; Classic Crepes). A full list is available here : [Map · Fair Trade Market Harborough](#). There are also two local wholesale companies, Lanka Kade, which imports traditional wooden toys from Sri Lanka and Koseli, which imports felt items from Nepal under fair trade conditions.

Harborough District Council has shown its commitment to Fairtrade adopting policies to ensure that wherever possible Fairtrade goods are sourced through any relevant procurement process (55.5 The Council may elect from time to time to incorporate specific standards such as The World Wildlife Fund timber pledge or Fairtrade standards in specifications).

Fair trade refreshments are served at all meetings in the Council's offices. In addition, pre pandemic there have been a variety of promotions in the council offices with staff, including free fair trade tastings in Fairtrade Fortnight and at other times such as bike week linking with the healthy eating agenda.

4. Implications of Decisions

4.1. Corporate Priorities

Community Leadership to create a sense of pride in our place.

4.2. Financial

There are no direct financial implications in this report and there is a reference in the Procurement SORP to the use of Fairtrade standards in specifications where appropriate.

4.3. Legal

No legal implications

4.4. Policy

To support Fairtrade, the Council's Statement of Recognised Practice (SORP) includes the provision to purchase Fairtrade material where appropriate.

4.5. Environmental Implications including contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Council by 2030

No direct implications however the promotion of Fairtrade goods does support the producers of goods to help mitigate against the impact of climate change.

4.6. Risk Management

No implications

4.7. Equalities Impact

No implications

4.8. Data Protection

No implications

5. Summary of Consultation and Outcome

Not applicable

6. Alternative Options Considered

Not applicable

7. Background papers

Previous reports: Council June 2015 & Council July 2018