

**ITEM NO. 11**

**REPORT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 30 JULY 2018**

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**Meeting:** Council  
**Date:** 30/07/18  
**Subject:** Market Harborough Fairtrade Town Renewal  
**Report of:** Helen Chadwick  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Bateman

**Status:**

**Relevant Ward(s):** Logan, Welland, Little Bowden and Great Bowden and Arden

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1 Purpose Report

1.1 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 and offering Fairtrade refreshments at all meetings

2 Recommendations:

2.1 **To confirm the Council's commitment to Fairtrade procurement**

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

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

3.1 Market Harborough became a Fairtrade town in 2006; the first town to do so in Leicestershire. This status has to be renewed roughly every two years. The last renewal was in 2015/16. The Market Harborough Fairtrade Town Group will be applying for renewal in the summer of 2018. Any Fairtrade Town group has to demonstrate local council support for their promotion of Fairtrade, in order to achieve renewal.

3.2 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 a annual schools baking competition and recently a Fairtrade Coffee loyalty card supported by local cafes. The Group also take part in other activities

including holding a cake stall in Movember, 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. There is also a local company, Lanka Kade, which imports traditional wooden toys from Sri Lanka under fair trade conditions.

3.3 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.

3.4 Fairly trade refreshments are served at all meetings in the Council's offices. In addition 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 Impact on Communities

4.1 Promotion of Fairtrade in Market Harborough encourages community engagement in various activities, particularly during Fairtrade Fortnight, including a schools' baking competition.

#### 5 Key Facts

5.1 Market Harborough became a Fairtrade town in 2006; the first town to do so in Leicestershire. This status has to be renewed bi-annually. The last renewal was in 2015. Fairtrade Town status is awarded by the Fairtrade Foundation.

5.2 Harborough District Council has supported Market Harborough in achieving Fairtrade status, including with initial grant funding.

5.3 Many of the retail businesses in the town stock Fairtrade products. The Fairtrade Group has recently had window flags printed to identify those businesses. There is also a well regarded Fairtrade Company importing traditional wooden toys from Sri Lanka in the town, Lanka Kade.

5.4 Fairtrade is supported by many community and faith groups in the Town.

#### 6 Legal Issues

6.1 None

#### 7 Resource Issues

7.1 None

#### 8 Equality Implications

- 8.1 None
  - 9 Impact on the Organisation
  - 9.1 Positive reputational implications and sign of Council acting as a community leader.
  - 10 Community Safety Implications
  - 10.1 None
  - 11. Carbon Management Implications
  - 11.1 None
  - 12. Risk Management Implications
  - 12.1 None
  - 13 Consultation
  - 13.1 N/A
  - 14 Options Considered
  - 14.1 N/A
  - 15 Background Papers
  - 15.1 N./A
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**Previous report(s):**

**Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure:**

**Ward Members Notified:**

**Appendices:** *list any appendices here including title and filename in brackets (e.g. Performance Data 2010 (perfdata.doc)).*