

ITEM NO. 13

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 22nd June 2015

Meeting: Council
Date: 22nd June 2015
Subject: Market Harborough Fairtrade Town Renewal
Report of: Helen Chadwick, Environment Co-ordinator
Portfolio Holder: Leader
Status:
Relevant Ward(s): Logan, Welland, Little Bowden and Great Bowden and Arden

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 Market Harborough as Fairtrade Town needs to confirm support from the District Council for Fairtrade activity, in order to renew its status as a Fairtrade Town. The Council has supported the Fairtrade town initiative formally in the past and has demonstrated support by incorporating Fairtrade requirements in procurement policies.

2 Recommendations:

2.1 **To confirm the Council's commitment to procure Fairtrade goods, wherever possible**

2.2 **To endorse 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 bi-annually. The last renewal was in 2013. The Market Harborough Fairtrade Town Group will be applying for renewal in the summer of 2015. Any Fairtrade Town group has to demonstrate local council support for their promotion of Fairtrade, in order to achieve renewal. As there is no Town Council, the Market Harborough Fairtrade Town Group have sought confirmation from the District Council.

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, which has entries from most schools in the Town. 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 32 independent and national stores, with 13 cafes and restaurants offering fairtrade refreshments. There is also a local company, Lanka Kade, which imports traditional toys from Sri Lanka and 22 businesses and organisations committed to using fairtrade.

- 3.3 Harborough District Council has demonstrated its commitment to Fairtrade in the past, adopting policies to ensure that wherever possible Fairtrade goods are sourced through any relevant procurement process.
- 3.4 Fairly traded tea, coffee and sugar are provided at meetings in the Council's offices when required.

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 2013. Fairtrade Town status is awarded buy 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.
- 5.4 Fairtrade is supported by many community and faith groups in the Town. Market Harborough C of E School is a Fairtrade School
- 5.5 Lutterworth is also a Fairtrade Town, within the District. Hinckley and Bosworth, Charnwood and Melton are Fairtrade Boroughs. Leicester is a Fairtrade City.

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 and responding to community wishes.
 - 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 The option not to renew has been considered however supporting this local initiative appears to be worthwhile.
 - 15 Background Papers
 - 15.1 N./A
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Previous report(s): None

Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: No

Ward Members Notified: No

Appendices: Letter from Market Harborough Fairtrade Group