

SUBJECT:	MONMOUTHSHIRE – 10 YEARS A FAIRTRADE COUNTY
MEETING:	COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	20TH SEPTEMBER 2018
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 To make members aware of our commitments as a Fairtrade county.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That members note the report and gain an understanding of our commitments as a Fairtrade county.

2.2 That members hear from some local Fairtrade town volunteers about how thinking carefully about what we buy can make a difference to the lives of farmers both locally and across the world.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, public bodies have to demonstrate how they are maximising their contribution to 7 Wellbeing Goals, which include “A Globally Responsible Wales”. One of the key ways which we contribute to the Globally Responsible goal is through our ongoing work to support and promote Fairtrade.

3.2 Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Fairtrade sets social, economic and environmental standards for both companies and the farmers and producers. For farmers and workers the standards include protection of workers’ rights and the environment, for companies they include the payment of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and an additional Fairtrade Premium to invest in business or community projects of the community’s choice.

3.3 In 2007, following the establishment of enthusiastic Fairtrade Town groups in Monmouth, Chepstow, Abergavenny and Usk, Monmouthshire County Council made a resolution to support Fairtrade and the Fairtrade Foundation awarded us Fairtrade County status. The resolution commits us to the following:

- To provide Fairtrade tea and coffee at all council meetings, offices and canteens.
- To encourage Fairtrade goods being available to customers on Council run premises, as an option, whereby the customer pays for any extra cost.
- To support the local Fairtrade Steering Group in their campaign to make Monmouthshire a Fairtrade County.
- To promote Fairtrade through specific initiatives as appropriate.
- That the Council’s developing Procurement Strategy considers a commitment to Fair Trade.

- 3.4 In 2008 Wales made history by becoming the first ever Fairtrade nation.
- 3.5 To keep our status as a Fairtrade County we have to submit an application and action plan roughly every 2 years, which sets out what work we have done to promote and use Fairtrade. This work is led by the Sustainability Policy Officer who works closely with the county's hardworking Fairtrade volunteers and with Fairtrade Wales. Early in 2018 we celebrated 10 years of being a Fairtrade county.
- 3.6 Work that has been undertaken within the council to raise the profile of Fairtrade has included the following:
- Only purchasing Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar for council meetings.
 - Working with vending machine suppliers to ensure Fairtrade products are used.
 - Regular sales and events to raise awareness amongst officers and members.
 - Working with Fairtrade Town groups at public events such as the National Eisteddfod and Usk Show.
 - Supporting schools who are working towards being Fairtrade Schools.
 - Using Fairtrade sports balls through all of the Sports Development team's work.
 - Taking the opportunity of new car park signs to get Fairtrade town logos included in the design.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Not applicable. Report for information only.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 Not applicable. Report for information only.

6. REASONS:

- 6.1 There are a good number of new members, so it is helpful to go over the background to our Fairtrade county status, remind members of what it commits us to, and to highlight the work that is going on both in the council and in the community to promote Fairtrade.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 There is no cost to renewing our Fairtrade County status, other than existing officer time.

8. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

- 8.1 Not required since report is for information only. However, our continuing work on Fairtrade is a key contribution to meeting the Globally Responsible Wales goal.

9. CONSULTEES:

Fairtrade Town volunteers from Usk, Abergavenny, Chepstow and Monmouthshire
Fairtrade Wales

Cabinet Member for Social Justice and Community Development
Head of Policy and Governance

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

11. AUTHOR: Hazel Clatworthy, Sustainability Policy Officer

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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