



WORTHING BOROUGH  
COUNCIL

Worthing Joint Strategic Sub-Committee  
5 December 2022

Key Decision [~~Yes~~/No]

Ward(s) Affected: All  
Cabinet Portfolio: Resources

## **Fair Trade Motion Response**

### **Report by the Director for Digital, Sustainability & Resources**

#### **Officer Contact Details**

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#### **Executive Summary**

##### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. A motion was raised at the meeting of Worthing Borough Council on the 22nd February 2022, which was subsequently supported by the Joint Strategic Committee in March 2022.
- 1.2. Since March 2022, the new administration has been developing its priorities working with officers, as illustrated in the New Economic Principles report on the Committee's agenda.
- 1.3. The purpose of this report is to acknowledge the strategic importance of Fair Trade in the Council's approach to the local economy, procurement and sustainability.
- 1.4. The report highlights the opportunities in forthcoming strategy and policy development work where support for Fair Trade can be embedded.

## **2. Recommendations**

### 2.1. That Members

- 2.1.1. Request that officers engage with the Fair Trade Steering Group with a view to supporting their renewal of Fair Trade Community Status, and helping connect them with support and funding opportunities where needed.
- 2.1.2. Agree that Fair Trade and its principles be embedded in the strategy and policy development work outlined in the New Economic Principles report presented on this agenda, including procurement and contracts.
- 2.1.3. Request that officers appropriately promote Fair Trade through its communications channels as part of driving towards a fair, green and local economy.

## **3. Context**

- 3.1. A Motion on Notice from Cllr Jon Roser was received and supported by the Joint Strategic Committee on March 16th 2022, having been referred by Full Council in February 2022.
- 3.2. The motion requested the Council to:
  - 3.2.1. Renew its commitment to 'Fair Trade Community' status, to support the Fair Trade Steering Group in its work towards keeping Fair Trade status for the area and developing activities around the goals in the future and to making Council employees, aware of the Council's policy on Fair Trade
  - 3.2.2. Actively promote Fair Trade locally, through support for local groups, in the media including social media, and events, including during Fair Trade Fortnight
  - 3.2.3. Support local Fair Trade Schools, colleges and Universities, and actively promote Fair Trade teaching materials in local schools and educational institutions

- 3.2.4. Celebrate and incentivise businesses championing Fair Trade products in the local community.
- 3.2.5. Review its procurement policy, including its catering offer, to ensure that Fair Trade produce is chosen wherever possible, and that Fair Trade considerations are included as a preference in any contracts going out to
- 3.3. Since March 2022, Worthing Council has changed political administration and has been developing new approaches in a number of key areas. This includes the New Economic Principles paper elsewhere on the Committee's agenda.
- 3.4. The economic report outlines three core principles: fair, green and local which are clearly embodied in the Fair Trade approach:  
  
*“Fair Trade is a system of certification that aims to ensure a set of standards are met in the production and supply of a product or ingredient. For farmers and workers, Fair Trade means workers' rights, safer working conditions and fairer pay. For shoppers it means high quality, ethically produced products.”*
- 3.5. The New Economic Principles Report outlines the policy areas that will be reviewed during 2023, including the economic development strategy, procurement and contracts and investment. A Climate Action Plan is also in development to be brought forward to Committee in January 2023. This will make recommendations on working with and supporting local networks such as Transition Town and others in the development of policy and action.

#### **4. Issues for consideration**

- 4.1. Supporting Fair Trade principles is an opportunity in a number of areas across the Councils, particularly those highlighted in 3.7
- 4.2. Opportunities to engage with local groups, schools and the Fair Trade Steering Group in particular will arise as part of the development of these major policy areas, and the most effective and efficient approach will be to incorporate Fair Trade considerations and opportunities into wider discussions with partners and community groups.

- 4.3. It is noted that the Fair Trade - Worthing Facebook site currently has limited activity and there is an opportunity for the Council to support a revitalisation of efforts. Engagement will be planned as part of the next stage of implementing the New Economic Principles should they be agreed.
- 4.4. As part of the implementation of the new economic principles we will review our procurement approach to areas such as inhouse catering, providing opportunities to promote a Fair Trade agenda.

## **5. Engagement and Communication**

- 5.1. Engagement work on local economy issues will flow, subject to approval, from the New Economic Principles report and consequent activities via the proposed working group.
- 5.2. Immediate engagement with the Fair Trade Steering Group is proposed in order to ensure their role in planning these engagements.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Existing staff time will be allocated to support the fair trade agenda.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or which is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.
- 7.2 s1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation
- 7.3 Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

## **Background Papers**

Referral of Motion on Notice from Worthing Borough Council, 16 March 2022

## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

- Fair Trade is a potentially significant part of delivering a fair, green and local economy, consistent with administration priorities.
- Fair Trade is a system of certification that aims to ensure a set of standards are met in the production and supply of a product or ingredient. For farmers and workers, Fair Trade means workers' rights, safer working conditions and fairer pay. For shoppers it means high quality, ethically produced products.
- Local businesses can achieve high levels of trust and reputation when demonstrating high integrity supply chains

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

- Social value impacts on a global scale through high integrity supply chains

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

- Fair Trade is underpinned by ethical practices in relation to workers

#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

- Issue considered and none identified

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

- Fair Trade means workers' rights, safer working conditions and fairer pay.

### **3. Environmental**

- "The Fair Trade movement promotes a fairer model of trade, which encourages sustainable production and consumption. A recent study on coffee and climate disaster by Le BASIC has shown that fair trading practices improve producers' livelihoods by ensuring they receive a higher share of value created in the supply chain, helping to significantly mitigate environmental and societal costs borne by producer communities in the Global South. Trade justice is therefore a vital step towards achieving climate justice; prioritising the needs of small-scale farmers and taking into account their increased vulnerabilities."

#### **4. Governance**

- Issue considered and none identified