

Meeting:	Overview & Scrutiny
Date:	29 January, 2007
Subject:	Fairtrade
Key Decision: (Executive-side only)	No
Responsible Officer:	Andrew Trehern, Executive Director, Urban Living Russell Beech, Service Manager, Urban Living
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor David Ashton, Business Development
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

## SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report sets out give an outline regarding the Council's position regarding Fairtrade progress.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Committee is requested to consider and comment on the report.

**REASON:** To update the original report submitted on 25 April, 2006

## **SECTION 2 - REPORT**

### Benefits

Working with local business, schools and communities in mutual promotion.

Civic pride from local residents.

Impact on performance measures of engagement etc.

### Cost Proposals

There is no current cost to Harrow, but expansion of Fair Trade products may lead to an increase in costs, if those goods were more expensive than similar items not subject to Fair Trade.

### Risks

Resources, budget, partners, community involvement, public uptake and sense of priority.

### Implications if Rejected

Disgruntled and disappointment from key community groups who are backing Fairtrade.

### **History since last report on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

#### **What has happened from May to December 2006**

- Three Fairtrade Steering Group meetings have taken place chaired by Councillor Barry Macleod-Cullinane.
- At least one or more stalls were available at the Under One Sky event in July 2006.
- Community Steering Group Meetings – Two further meetings have taken place since the last report on 14 & 28 June 2006.
- Civic Centre restaurant continues to use Fairtrade products for tea, coffee, sugar and milk portions, as well as other snack items.

The Teachers Centre restaurant now uses Fairtrade products, which consist of general snack items.

### **Where the Council is with its aims on Fairtrade**

To become a *Fairtrade Town*, Harrow must meet the following 5 goals must be met:

1. The local council must pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and serve Fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings and in offices and canteens

**We now serve tea and coffee and are encouraging staff that buy their own to buy Fairtrade.**

2. A range of Fairtrade products must be readily available in the area's shops and served in local cafes and catering establishments (targets are set in relation to population)

**Members of the Steering Group have been tasked with compiling a list of establishments who stock and sell Fairtrade products.**

3. Fairtrade products must be used by a number of local work places (estate agents, hairdressers etc) and community organisations (churches, schools etc)

**Members of the Steering Group have been tasked with compiling a list of establishments who stock and sell Fairtrade products.**

4. The council must attract popular support for the campaign

**There is no funding available from the Council for this part but some members of the steering group were going to attempt to obtain sponsorship from the major retail outlets.**

5. A local Fairtrade steering group must be convened to ensure continued commitment to *Fairtrade Town* status

**This has been set up and meets every two months (it comprises local community and church groups, voluntary sectors and businesses). As above two further meetings were held in June 2006.**

### **Areas to note:**

The initial progress has been tempered by the need to focus available resources on the management of resources in the current year, critically resource planning for the medium term and the development of BTP system benefits.

Many Fairtrade products are more expensive to purchase and this taken alongside the reduction of hospitality within the Council has led to a reduction of Fairtrade products purchased for the Civic Centre.

One Harrow school has been represented at the Steering Group Meetings and the representative is attempting to recruit more schools to embrace Fairtrade products.

Unfortunately there are many other priorities competing with members and officer's time at the moment and the in house catering section is currently undergoing a complete review of all its services.

**Financial Implications**

If Members are minded to ask officers to take forward the delivery of this initiative, there will be financial implications, as it will not be possible to resource this activity from existing budgets.

**Legal Implications**

Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 gives the local authority the power to do anything which they consider is likely to achieve promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of the area.

**SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE**

Chief Finance Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: Anil Nagpul Date: January 2007
Monitoring Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: Hugh Peart Date: January 2007

**SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Contact:** Russell Beech, Service Manager, Urban Living, 020 8424 1481

**Background Papers:**

Please note original report presented at the meeting dated 25 April 2006.

**IF APPROPRIATE, does the report include the following considerations?**

1.	Consultation	YES/ NO
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES / NO
3.	Manifesto Pledge Reference Number	