

REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 30 AUGUST 2023

ABERDEENSHIRE FAIRTRADE ZONE RENEWAL

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report requests Aberdeenshire Council's continued commitment to Fairtrade. It provides a summary of the online Fairtrade Zone renewal application which is currently under development by the Aberdeenshire Fairtrade Steering Group. The application is due by 1 October 2023 and part of the process requires that Aberdeenshire Council demonstrates a renewed support to Fairtrade.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Agree on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council, to commit the Council to its continued support of Fairtrade Zone status in Aberdeenshire; and

1.2.2 Consider and comment on the draft Fairtrade Zone Application attached as Appendix 1.

2 Decision-Making Route

2.1 Aberdeenshire Council has been notified by the Fairtrade Foundation that Fairtrade Zone status is due for renewal on 1 October 2023. Aberdeenshire became the 17th Fairtrade Zone in 2013, making a contribution to Scotland becoming a Fairtrade Nation. Therefore, the Council's continued support of Fairtrade is important both locally and nationally.

2.2 The last Fairtrade Zone application and continual support for Fairtrade on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council was approved by the Sustainability Committee on 19 February 2020 ([Item 6](#)). The renewal process is typically every 2 years however a delay in the new online application template has extended Aberdeenshire's current certification from May 2020 to October 2023.

3 Discussion

3.1 Aberdeenshire Fairtrade Steering Group is made up of dedicated volunteers from across the region who work hard to promote Fairtrade in their local area. The group typically meets twice a year in person but has regular contact through emails. The meetings are organised and chaired by the Team Leader for Sustainability and Climate Change to ensure that there is always representation and support from the Council at every meeting.

3.2 In addition, Aberdeenshire Council is a member of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum and the Team Leader for Sustainability and Climate Change is the Aberdeenshire representative for the Grampian region.

- 3.3 Great work has been done over the past three years to help promote Fairtrade across the region during a challenging time when the pandemic put a stop to the usual face to face events. This work is highlighted under part 7 of **Appendix 1**. Part 8 covers what the Group is planning to continue to develop in the coming years ahead.
- 3.4 The renewal form (**Appendix 1**) has been distributed to the Aberdeenshire Fairtrade Steering Group for comments and to gather further data, which is now required in relation to parts 2, 3, 4, and 6. Any comments made to parts 7 and 8 by the Sustainability Committee will be sent back to the Group for its final approval and sign off before being returned to the Fairtrade Foundation for consideration.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority “Climate Change” within the Pillar “Our Environment” and “Learning for Life” within the Pillar “Our People”.

Pillar	Priority
Our People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning for Life • Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Resilient Communities
Our Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Growth • Infrastructure and public assets

- 4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			X
Staffing			X
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland			X
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing			X
Climate Change and Sustainability			X
Health and Wellbeing			X
Town Centre First			X

- 4.3 There are no direct staffing or financial implications arising from this update report. There is no fee for renewing Fairtrade Zone status.
- 4.4 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken. An IIA is not required as there are no direct implications of considering this Fairtrade Zone renewal application although it should be recognised that supporting Fairtrade can support climate change mitigation and adaptation in the countries where Fairtrade products are grown and/or made.

4.5 The following Risks in the Corporate Risk Register have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

- Risk ID ACORP006 as it relates to reputation management

4.5.1 Mitigation of this risk can be addressed by Aberdeenshire Council supporting this Fairtrade Zone application.

5 Scheme of Governance

5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report. They are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

5.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section R paragraph 1.1 (a) of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to approving, reviewing and monitoring the Council's work in respect of sustainable development and climate change.

Alan Wood
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17 August 2023

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 Summary of Draft Aberdeenshire Fairtrade Zone Application