

**Council: 31 October 2019**

## **Fairtrade Motion**

**Councillor R. Ritter will move and Councillor J. Essex will second the following Motion:**

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### **This motion asks council to note that:**

- 2019 marks 25 years since the FAIRTRADE Mark was launched in the UK.
- Since 1994, consumer demand for Fairtrade has grown thanks to the efforts of grassroots campaigners, and pioneering Fair Trade businesses.
- There are now over 600 Fairtrade Communities in the UK, including Surrey County Council from 2014.
- As a result of Fairtrade commitments from mainstream brands and retailers, the UK Fairtrade market is now one of the biggest in the world.
- Global Fairtrade sales last year generated £142 million in Fairtrade Premium. Farmers in 73 countries have invested this money in their communities, increasing business productivity and contributing to the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Despite this positive news, exploitation remains rampant in global [supply chains](#). More than 40 million people are trapped in modern slavery (as was highlighted in last year's RBBC campaign about modern slavery) and 152 million young people in child labour ([according to the UN](#)) Hundreds of millions more are earning less than a living income or wage.

### **The proposer of this motion believes that:**

- The Fairtrade principles of paying a 'premium' that is wholly managed by farmers and workers themselves, and of minimum prices to protect producers from market volatility, are crucial to systemic change. This 'premium' also enables farmers in to be resilient to the impacts of [climate change](#).
- Public bodies, including local authorities, should support ethical procurement policies, using their purchasing power to support Fairtrade and ensure their supply chains, at home and abroad, are free of exploitation, including modern slavery.
- Companies operating through global supply chains should go further and take steps to require the payment of living wages and achievement of living incomes for all.

**This motion calls on this council to resolve to:**

- Commit to achieve 'Fairtrade Town' status, through support for the local Fairtrade steering group working on achieving this status for Reigate and in due course Redhill, Horley and Banstead, to achieve the status of a Fairtrade borough.
- Actively promote Fairtrade locally, through support for local groups and churches, in the media including social media, and events, including during Fairtrade Fortnight.
- Support local Fairtrade Schools, colleges and actively promote Fairtrade teaching materials in local schools and educational institutions.
- Celebrate businesses already selling Fairtrade products and incentivising more of them to champion Fairtrade in the local community.
- Review its procurement policy, including its catering and refreshments offer, to ensure that Fairtrade produce is chosen wherever possible, and that Fairtrade considerations are included as a preference in any contracts going out to tender.