



COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

BATHGATE FAIRTRADE TOWN AND WEST LOTHIAN FAIRTRADE ZONE APPLICATIONS

REPORT BY HEAD OF AREA SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To ask the Council Executive to support Bathgate Fairtrade Town Steering Group's current bid for Fairtrade Town status and consider elected member representation on the Bathgate Steering Group.

The report also provides an update on West Lothian Fairtrade Zone Steering Group's application for county recognition.

B. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Executive agrees the content of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Working in Partnership
	Making the best use of resources
	Focusing on our customers' needs
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Support Existing Policy on Fairtrade
III Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None.
IV Consultations	Local partners to be consulted on how best to move the process forward

D. TERMS OF REPORT

- 1 Bathgate Fairtrade Town Steering Group is currently applying to The Fairtrade Foundation for Fairtrade Town status. If successful this would be West Lothian's fifth Fairtrade Town or Village, along with Linlithgow, Livingston, Whitburn and Uphall.
- 2 West Lothian Council's existing policy on supporting Fairtrade was established in 2003 when it resolved to 'introduce the choice of Fairtrade products wherever possible within West Lothian Council establishments and catering services.' The Council currently provides Fairtrade Coffee and Tea at Council catering outlets and if providing these for meetings.

As with previous applications where the Council has supported the other Fairtrade Towns and village the Council Executive is being asked to support the Bathgate bid and agree to nominate two elected members from the ward to represent the Council on the Steering Group.

- 3 West Lothian Fairtrade Zone Steering Group was established following a decision of the Partnership and Resources Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel on 19 February 2010 and the Council Executive on 23 February 2010 to restate the council's commitment to support Fairtrade and to work towards Fairtrade Zone status for the county. The Steering Group has met regularly for over a year and planned or helped to promote a number of events throughout the year, in particular during Fairtrade Fortnight 2011 which saw up to 100 Fairtrade related activities going on around the county in schools, churches, work and public places. It has developed its membership and welcomed the Centre on board as a Flag Ship Employer and has ensured regular press coverage that has seen Fairtrade promoted in a number of publications regularly throughout the year.
- 4 As a result of this work the West Lothian Fairtrade Zone Steering Group is of the view that the criteria set by the Fairtrade Foundation, detailed below, has been achieved and is in the process of submitting its application for Zone Status.
 - Pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and agrees to serve Fairtrade tea and coffee at its meetings and in its offices and canteens.
 - Ensure a range of (at least two) Fairtrade products is readily available in the area's shops and local cafés/catering establishments.
 - Fairtrade products are used by a number of local work places and community organisations (places of worship, schools etc).
 - Attract media coverage and popular support for the campaign.
 - Convene a local Fairtrade steering group to ensure continued commitment to its Fairtrade Zone status.
- 5 If Fairtrade Zone status is achieved West Lothian will be added to a number of Local Authorities that have achieved Fairtrade Zone status and help Scotland's campaign to achieve Fairtrade Nation status in 2012.

E. CONCLUSION

The Council Executive is asked to support the Bathgate application and agree to nominate two elected members to sit on the local steering group.

The Council Executive is also asked to note and support progress on the Fairtrade Zone application.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Minutes of the P,P&R Committee, 9 December 2003

<http://webwest1.app.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/document/policy%20partnership%20and%20resources%20committee/20040210/ppr20031209.pdf>

Minutes of the Partnership and Resources Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel , 19 February 2010 <http://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Di%95qz>

Report to the Partnership and Resources Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel , 19 February 2010

<http://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Di%90o%80>

Minutes of the Council Executive , 23 February 2010

<http://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Di%94oz>

Report to the Council Executive, 23 February 2010

<http://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Di%92i%7D>

Appendices/Attachments: none

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Date: 21 June 2011