

**ERG 18/5**

**TONBRIDGE FAIRTRADE TOWN – PROPOSAL**

Decision Notice D180020MEM

The report set out proposals aimed at making Tonbridge a Fairtrade town and the Borough Council's support of the initiative was sought. In addition, a local Fairtrade Steering Group, with a nominated Borough Council representative, was required to ensure continued development and support.

A draft resolution in support of the Fairtrade town initiative was set out at paragraph 1.4.1 of the report. For clarity, whilst the draft resolution encouraged the supply of Fairtrade products in the Borough Council offices it was noted that the organisation no longer had canteen facilities on site.

Members were supportive of the proposals for a Fairtrade Town and strongly encouraged balanced representation of the business community on the Steering Group. It was important that local businesses and products were not disadvantaged as a result of the proposals.

In addition, Members recognised the local and national benefits related to Fairtrade and hoped that the Borough Council could offer Fairtrade products where possible. It was also suggested that consideration be given to supporting 'Direct Trade' which was often viewed as complementary to Fairtrade certification.

**RECOMMENDED:** That

- (1) the resolution set out in paragraph 1.4.1 of the report be supported; and
- (2) a representative from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council be appointed to the Tonbridge Fairtrade Steering Group.