

## **Bexhill on Sea Town Council's Statement of Commitment to Fairtrade**

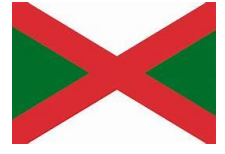
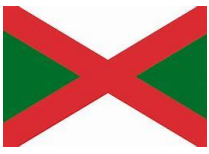
### **This Council notes that:**

- 2021 marks 27 years since the FAIRTRADE Mark was launched in the UK and 14 years since Bexhill on Sea achieved Fairtrade Town community status under Rother District Council.
- 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 and more than 2,000 globally<sup>1</sup>.
- 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 generate millions in Fairtrade Premium. Farmers in many countries have invested this money in their communities, increasing business productivity and contributing to the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Despite profitable global sales in global Fairtrade, exploitation remains rampant in global supply chains. More than 40 million people are trapped in modern slavery, including forced labour, and 152 million young people in child labour<sup>2</sup>. Hundreds of millions more are earning less than a living income or wage. We are very aware also that the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccine availability and increasing climate destruction have caused further deterioration in poorest producer communities.

### **This Council believes that:**

- Fairtrade and the wider Fairtrade movement has a significant contribution to make towards ending exploitation in global supply chains and achieving the SDGs.
- The recently agreed International Fairtrade charter<sup>3</sup> should be welcomed, with its vision of transforming trade to work for people and planet.
- 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.
- 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.

1. <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/in-your-community/communities>
2. [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_574717/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_574717/lang--en/index.htm)
3. <https://www.fair-trade.website/the-charter-1>



- 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 council resolves to:**

- Commit to 'Fairtrade Town Community' status.
- Support and work with the Bexhill Fairtrade Group by sharing their events publicity especially during Fairtrade Fortnight<sup>4</sup> and promoting awareness of Climate Change effects in relation to global Fairtrade.
- Serve Fairtrade tea and coffee and other refreshments at Council meetings and where provided for hirers.
- Support local Fairtrade Schools, community and faith groups by attending where possible local events throughout the year.
- Ensure that Fairtrade refreshments are included in the selection available in the Town Council's & Town Mayor's office.
- Include 'being a Fairtrade supplier' as a desirable criteria within any procurement and tendering policy the council adopts and to include Fairtrade suppliers where possible when advertising any external contracts.

Signed .....

Date: .....

Mayor, Bexhill-on Sea-Town Council

4. Fair Trade fortnight in 2022 runs from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March