

DEPUTATION ONE – LEEDS FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUP

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon and welcome to today's Council meeting. Could you make your speech, please, to Council? It should be not longer than five minutes and could you please begin by introducing your deputation?

MS H DALRYMPLE: Good afternoon. We are from the Leeds Fair Trade Steering Group. My name is Hannah Dalrymple – I had to write down the names in case I get them wrong. This is Cynthia Dixon, Joan Machin, Stella Wade and Paul Durkin.

Firstly, the Fair Trade Steering Group would like to thank you for this opportunity to address you with this delegation. Why do we think fair trade is important for Leeds? Fair trade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers in the developing world, or global south, as it is also know. Leeds has a proud history of standing up for fairness and equality and our status as a fair trade city is a way to show that we are for people being able to invest in their communities and improve their lives.

What benefits does Fair Trade Status bring to the city of Leeds? The Fair Trade Campaign raises the profile of Leeds through association to an ethical campaign. It supports community cohesion by recognising contributions made by countries where Leeds' citizens have their origins. It promotes Leeds businesses as ethically aware through corporate policies offering fair trade products to personnel. Local businesses selling fair trade products can take advantage of this growing market.

Leeds City Council passed a Fair Trade City resolution in 2004 but now Leeds has to renew its status with the Fair Trade Foundation, who are the national body that oversee and promote fair trade. We would like your support in renewing our status and will explain how you can do this later in the presentation.

First, let us tell you about our achievements. Since Leeds became a Fair Trade City the following organisations have achieved Fair Trade Status: Leeds Metropolitan University and the University of Leeds; 73 places of worship, as well as the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds. The Steering Group has been working with Leeds Development Education Centre to promote fair trade in Leeds' schools. In January we held a very successful Yorkshire Gets Ready for Fair Trade fortnight event at the University of Leeds. Hilary Benn, MP, and Linda McAvan, MEP, addressed over 80 delegates present who included schools, fair trade retailers and supporters.

At least five schools in Leeds took part in the national record breaking attempt to make the longest length of fair trade cotton bunting to highlight the injustices faced by cotton farmers in the global south. We made a new world record.

A Fair Trade Conference for schools is being planned in the autumn term with Greg Mulholland, MP. A resource pack has been distributed to Leeds' schools to help them achieve fair trade status.

Recent events – in 2010, via Twitter, Leeds beat Manchester in the number of swaps to fair trade products with 5,000 Leeds people taking part. As part of Fair Trade Fortnight 2011, we hosted a Yorkshire-wide schools competition where we invited children to upload a one minute video explaining the importance of fair trade cotton using sock puppets. The winning entry was from a Leeds school and Councillor Harrand actually presented the award. The headteacher at Alwoodley Primary School said the competition meant so much to the children and they really enjoyed it.

In March 2011 a Fair Trade and Vintage Fashion Show was held at the University of Leeds, organised in conjunction with the students and Leeds Fair Trade businesses. Over 100 people attended.

How can the Council support the Fair Trade Steering Group to help us renew our status as a Fair Trade city? We would like the Council to help us raise the profile of our status by incorporating the “We are a Fair Trade City” logo in the following areas: on publications and leaflets; as an email signature; on Council stationery; on the Council website with a link to the Leeds Fair Trade City website; on Council vehicles; in the Tourist Information Centre; on Councillors business cards.

We would also request that Fair Trade City certificates are displayed in the Civic and in the Town Halls; a Council representative attends our bi-monthly Fair Trade Steering Group meetings; the Council reaffirms the Fair Trade City motion passed in 2004.

We would also like permission to have a banner outside the Town Hall during Fair Trade fortnight annually in March. The wording would be something like, “Leeds celebrates Fair Trade Fortnight”, again with the Fair Trade City logo.

We know for some if not all of you the biggest question will be, how much will this cost?

THE LORD MAYOR: Hannah, could you move to your final sentence, please?

MS H DALRYMPLE: We believe all of the above can be achieved on a cost neutral basis for the Council. Finally, we warmly invite you to our Fair Trade Christmas event for Councillor and Council staff on Friday 2 December in the antechamber. There will be opportunities for you to find out more about the campaign and win some fair trade goodies. We thank you so much for listening to our delegation and we look forward so much to hearing your response. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lewis?

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you. I move that the matter be referred to the Executive Board for consideration.

COUNCILLOR LOBLEY: I second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I call for a vote on that, please? *(A vote was taken)*
That is CARRIED.

Hannah, thank you for attending and for what you have said. You will be kept informed of the considerations which your comments will receive. Good afternoon, thank you.

MS H DALRYMPLE: Good afternoon, thank you. *(Applause)*