1. **Meeting:** DEMOCRATIC & RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL

2. **Date:** 11th January 2005

3. **Title:** FAIR TRADE STATUS FOR ROTHERHAM

4. **Programme Area:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S

5. **Summary**
   
   Rotherham MBC has agreed to work towards achieving Fair Trade status for the town.

6. **Recommendations**
   
   That this panel agree to become the body which will monitor the work undertaken by this authority towards achieving Fair Trade status for the town of Rotherham.

7. **Proposals and Details**
   
   At its meeting on 24th November Rotherham MBC resolved unanimously:

   “That this Council notes the campaign by the Youth Cabinet to encourage wider knowledge and take up of Fair Trade products. The Council supports the principle of Fair Trade and resolves to take the necessary steps to move towards Fair Trade Status for the Rotherham Borough.”

   This was the culmination of many months of discussion which arose from a proposal from the Rotherham Youth Cabinet whose members felt very strongly that Fair Trade status was a goal which their borough should be trying to achieve.

   Fair Trade is the umbrella term for farmers, workers and artisans who receive a sufficient price for their produce rather than being exploited by “middlemen” who generally pay far below world prices. For more information about the campaign Members may like to look at the Fair Trade Towns website: [http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved_fairtrade_towns.htm](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved_fairtrade_towns.htm)

   Following the resolution the Council now needs to look into the practicalities of achieving the targets set to be granted Fair Trade Town status. It will mean the Council serving fair trade tea, coffee and other beverages at its meetings and outlets – including schools, youth centres and social services establishments. Other local workplaces and community organisations will also be encouraged to do the same.

   An action plan is being developed which will look at all the issues involved and how to achieve them. This will come to a future meeting of the panel. While Cllr Hilda Jack has pledged to take up the issue as one of her causes when she becomes Mayor next year, it is proposed that this panel should be the body which monitors progress towards achieving the goal of Fair Trade Town. In doing this we would work with the Youth Cabinet to keep them informed of progress.
Fairtrade Fortnight will be taking place 1 – 13th March where public activities will take place to make the people of Rotherham more aware of the issue of Fair Trade and why it is important. Members may wish to make proposals as to how the council can use this event to promote their policy.

8. Finance
There will be financial implications for this authority in working towards Fair Trade status. These will become clearer when the action plan is developed.

9. Risks and Uncertainties
Working towards achieving Fairtrade status will be challenging for this authority as it will reach into many service areas eg procurement, education, social services. It is difficult to anticipate timescales at this stage.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications
The policy of working towards Fairtrade status links to the council’s “Vision for the Borough and key Priorities” through the themes “Rotherham Proud” - which states “We will be renowned for our welcome, our friendliness and commitment to the values of social justice”.

11. Background Papers and Consultation
Minutes of Full Council meeting – 24th November 2005
Vision of the Borough and Key Priorities – October 2005
Fair trade Fortnight 2005 – Action guide

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