

Report on	Fairtrade Fortnight Schools Event
Reporting Officer	Raymond Lowry Head Of Service
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Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform Members of the recent Fairtrade Schools Event held as part of Fairtrade Fortnight 2018.
2.0	Background
2.1	As part of their wider work on sustainable development Mid Ulster District Council is committed to actively support Fairtrade. At their February 2017 Council meeting MUDC passed a Fairtrade Resolution to demonstrate their commitment to actively facilitate the promotion and purchase of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark and to contribute to the regional Fairtrade campaign by taking a lead role in striving towards achieving Fairtrade District status for Mid Ulster District.
2.2	Following on from this decision Council have now switched to the use of FAIRTRADE TEA and COFFEE at all internal meetings.
2.3	Council is also organising awareness raising activities through their Sustainability Officer particularly during and in the run-up to Fairtrade Fortnight, which this year ran from 26 th February to 11 th of March. Fairtrade Fortnight is a UK and Ireland wide, action-packed highlight of the year, when campaigners, businesses, schools and places of worship show their support for the farmers and workers who grow our food in developing countries.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	As part of this year's Fairtrade Fortnight MUDC held a 'Meet the Producer' Fairtrade Schools Event on Tuesday, 27 th February 2018 in the Indoor Events Space of the Hill of The O'Neill and Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre in Dungannon. During the morning participants learned a lot about FAIRTRADE and how many of our common foods such as sugar, bananas, coffee, tea, cocoa and spices are grown in different parts of the world. Fairtrade refreshments were also served and a Fairtrade Quiz allowed the teams from attending schools to test their Fairtrade knowledge. Quiz winners were presented by Council Chair Kim Ashton with their prizes. The event was well attended by 40 pupils and 10 teachers from 10 local schools. Many schools had sent members of their Eco schools committees or student councils and were

3.2	<p>planning to use what they have learned on the day for further activities in school. Attending schools were: Carntall PS, Derrycrin PS, Howard PS, Integrated College Dungannon, Moneymore PS, Royal School Dungannon, St Macartan's PS Clogher, St Patricks PS (The Loup), St Patrick's PS (Dungannon), Windmill Integrated PS.</p> <p>Special guest for the morning was FAIRTRADE producer John Joseph, Chairman of WOFFA (WSSS Organic Farmers Fairtrade Association) and FAIRTRADE farmer of Coffee and Spices in India. John Joseph founded the WOFFA in 2008 with 400 small scale farmers in the rural Wayanad region of Kerala, India, known for its panoramic views and the diversity of indigenous tribal communities. At the event John Joseph gave participants an interesting insight into rural life in his native community and how Fairtrade played a role in changing the lives of Indian farmers and producers for the better. He spoke about better housing, health care and measures to stop soil erosion all made possible through Fairtrade and answered the many questions which local pupils were asking him about Fairtrade.</p> <p>Kevin McCullough, Head of Campaigns with The Fairtrade Foundation was also present and highlighted opportunities for schools to getting involved in becoming a Fairtrade School and gaining a series of Fairtrade School Awards.</p>
3.3	<p>The event received good media coverage in local papers, social media and on the Council website.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p><u>Financial & Human Resources Implications</u></p> <p>N/a</p>
4.2	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>All primary and secondary schools of Mid Ulster district were invited to participate in the event.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Risk Management Implications</u></p> <p>N/a</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>Members are asked to note the content of this report</p>
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	<p>Appendix 1: Media coverage of the event.</p>