

From Councillor Oldrieve

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL  
13 JULY 2010**

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**COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS**

**FROM COUNCILLOR STEVE OLDRIEVE**  
**TROWBRIDGE PAXCROFT DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR JOHN NOEKEN**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**

**Question**

Council at its meeting on 1 December 2009 adopted a notice of motion I had put forward on Fair Trade.

Can the Cabinet member please update me on how the actions agreed as part of the adopted motion have since been implemented.

In particular, I would like an update on the following points:

- How the requirements of the motion have been reflected in the Council's procurement and commissioning policies including the Council's contract regulations, procurement guidance and the manager procurement toolkit and
- How the Council is promoting the concept and practice of fair trade across Wiltshire.

**Response**

With the Council's increasing financial pressures the Procurement and Commissioning functions have focussed much of its efforts towards the planning and delivery of £9m savings year on year over the next 3 year period. Despite these financial pressures the concept of sustainable procurement, including the use of fairly traded products remains an important part of the Council's procurement strategy. With limited resources available key actions have been achieved since the Council meeting on 1 December 2009. These include:-

- Adoption in March 2010 of a new Corporate Procurement Strategy. Setting out our aspirations and communicating these to staff, partners and service providers.
- Detailed specific guidance regarding the purchase and use of Fairly Traded products for staff involved in tendering is being drafted and will be published on the procurement portal. This will support staff making procurement decisions.

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- Talking to local suppliers via Meet the Buyer events as sustainable procurement should also include our local SME businesses in Fair Trading opportunities.
- Hosting Fair Trade event at County Hall.
- Engagement with local and regional groups regarding sustainable procurement.
- Developing the Council's targets on Climate Change.
- Attending South West Fair Trade events (next one is in October 2010).
- Encouraging suppliers, where appropriate to source Fairly Traded products as part of their service delivery (Councillors using the Byways restaurant will now see Sodexo provide a range of products for customers to choose).

So, despite the pressures on our procurement teams to achieve demanding cost savings, good progress is being made towards implementing the actions agreed by Council in December 2009.