Motion from Council - Increasing our Commitment to Fairtrade

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This AGM is proud to acknowledge that due to our members' commitment to Fairtrade, our Co-op continues to outperform the market in sales and lead on our Fairtrade range. We applaud our Co-op's decision to sign up to the International Fair Trade Charter at a time when some retailers are reducing their commitment to Fairtrade.

At this critical and highly challenging time in the history of the Fairtrade movement, we recognise that a fairer distribution of wealth globally will also strengthen communities in the UK where members live and our Co-op trades.

Working with Fairtrade groups and our members, this AGM wishes to further strengthen support for Fairtrade Producers.

This AGM calls upon the Board to:

- Campaign and communicate about the Fairtrade difference, helping shoppers appreciate 'Gold standard' certification like the Fairtrade mark and continue to support the world's Fair Trade bodies to unify standards and maximise producer benefits.
- Increase visibility of Fairtrade products in our shops and promote them year round, coupled with Fairtrade stories and product messages, so that busy shoppers can quickly and easily choose Fairtrade.
- Whilst maintaining Co-op's welcome commitment to the existing 7 core Fairtrade categories, review the possibilities for strengthening and extending the range thus allowing customers to increase their support for Fairtrade producers.
- Fully explore how best members can support and contribute, through financial and non-financial means, to the growth of co-operative Fairtrade projects through their Co-op, recognising that we are all part of a global community as well as local, regional and national communities.
- Make our Co-op website the "go to digital hub" to find local, national and internationally available Fair Trade products and businesses, that we are unable to stock, thus growing resilience and product diversity in Fairtrade producer communities. Promote this to those members already buying Fairtrade from their Co-op, as well as to non-members.
- Fully report our financial support of Fairtrade, including the value of Fairtrade and its impact on producer communities, in a transparent way allowing a better understanding of different retailers' claims in comparison to our own.