

# Wales

## Fair Trade Food

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This presentation:

- Evidence from research over 3 years
- Issues facing local authorities when procuring fair trade food
- Austerity impacts



# Setting the scene...

- Food policy in Wales:
  - Support for agriculture and SMEs through procurement: commitment to local sourcing
  - Health scares – risk reduction and traceability
- Sustainable development:
  - Legal duty following devolution
  - Wales as a Fair Trade Nation
  - Active CSO/NGO movement lobbying for Fair Trade
- Outcome: FT supported through public procurement as a connection from the Welsh public to **sustainable development**



# The story so far...

- Country with more than 100 authorities:
  - Local and regional govt, education, health and quangos
- FT in public procurement:
  - in-house cafes, hospitality, school meals and vending machines
- Small and fragmented quantities for resale:
  - Tea, coffee, chocolate, snack bars, juices
- Exception: FT as standard hospitality tea and coffee
- Challenge: going beyond resale and into the kitchen



# Issues

leadership



legal



priorities



contract

## WILLPOWER

knowledge



Supply chain and availability



cost

Budget cuts



Guarantees a **better deal** for Third World Producers



# Contract and Legal Issues

- Parameters of social issues in EC procurement law
  - EC: evolving
  - UK's Office of Government Commerce: disinterest
  - Wales: attempt to push boundaries
- Examples from Wales
- Outcome: conservative and different interpretations
- Scope to be creative



# Leadership and influence

- Political leadership – councillors and resolutions
- Cascading into practice – energy and people
- Energy – initial activity when innovative; now seen as a luxury item, present but not moving forward
- Examples from Wales
- Outcome: at highest political level there is leadership but questions remain over how this is maintained and embedded in each organisation



# Competing priorities

- Good: fair trade is situated within wider sustainability drivers including local food sourcing
- Bad: isolated as a separate issue and a minor spend within hospitality
- Examples from Wales
- Outcome: pockets of good practice but financial crisis urges justification on every spend



# Issues with the supply chain

- Cost
  - Availability
  - Skills and knowledge of supply chain
  - Examples from Wales
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- Outcome: learning by doing but an identified need to share best practice



# Austerity impacts

Changing priorities:

- food policy
- sustainable dev.
- accountability  
is essential



Outcome: hiatus in growth remains within public authorities' catering. Demand can maintain this but the picture is potentially bleak.



# Challenges ahead

- Moving away from PR value of branded items for resale and into kitchen ingredients
- Sustainability dropping in priority
- Leadership and commitment
- Embedding into procurement practice
- Continued demand from public
- Essential ingredient: **willpower and creativity**





THANK YOU