

Amendment to Motion:

"This council notes that:

- * Corporate tax evasion and avoidance are having a damaging impact on the world's poorest countries, to such a level that it is costing them far more than they receive in aid

- * This is costing the UK as much as £30bn a year

- * This practice also has a negative effect on small and medium-sized companies who pay more tax proportionately.

This council further notes that the UK Government has taken steps to tackle the issue of tax avoidance and evasion by issuing Procurement Policy Note 03/14 (PPN 03/14). This applies to all central government contracts worth more than £5m.

This council also notes the existence of voluntary schemes promoting tax compliance such as the Fair Tax Mark, which can serve as an independent means of verification. In early 2015 new regulations required public bodies, including councils, to ask procurement qualification questions of all companies for tenders over £173,000 for service contracts and £4m for works contracts.

However, these questions are not as detailed as the PPN 03/14.

~~This council believes that bidders for council contracts should be asked to account for their past tax records, using the standards in PPN 03/14, rather than the lower standards in the recent regulations. This council therefore calls for procurement procedures to be amended to require all companies bidding for service contracts worth more than £80,000 and for works contracts worth more than £2m to self-certify that they are fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice using the standards in 03/14, applying to contracts of the size specified above."~~

This council resolves to bring a report to Strategy and Resources committee as soon as practicable to consider whether it is prudent, justified and practical to amend its procurement procedures in such a way as to require bidders for council contracts to account for their past

tax records using the standards in PPN 03/14, and if so at what thresholds such a requirement should apply.