

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion 5 in the name of Councillor Kennedy to be seconded by Councillor Hall	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: November 23 2016

“This Council notes that 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. It is also costing the UK as much as £30 billion a year and this practice also has a negative effect on small and medium-sized companies who pay more tax proportionately
This Council further notes:

- the UK Government has taken steps to tackle the issue of tax avoidance and evasion by issuing Procurement Policy Note 03/14, which applies to all central government contracts worth more than £5m
- the availability of independent means of verifying tax compliance, such as the Fair Tax Mark
- 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 recognises:

- That, under the Council's current procurement policy, all suppliers bidding for contracts above £173,000 with the London Borough of Lewisham are required to self-certify their tax compliance status in line with central government practice, using the standards in PPN 03/14.
- That any supplier that has any occasion of non-compliance with last 5 years is excluded from the Council's procurement procedure, unless it has since fulfilled its obligation.

On 20th July 2016 the Council resolved to:

- Work to incorporate co-operative values and principles when planning services and in its engagement with local residents.
- Publicise existing co-operative good practice within the council and across the London Borough of Lewisham.

- Audit our contractors and suppliers on how many meet the Fair Tax Mark standards, pay the Living Wage and meet appropriate standards on apprenticeships. This Council therefore resolves to promote its current procurement policy and encourage partner organisations to undertake similar approach. This Council asks the Cabinet to report on the promotion of its policy and on progress to obtain the Fair Tax Mark to Full Council on an annual basis for the next five years.