

Council Response to Implementing the Fair Tax Declaration agreed at full Council.

The following actions are in the process of being implemented or planned by the Council

Council Motion	Response
Ensuring contractors implement IR35 robustly and pay any due employment taxes	<p>The Council has a list of approved contractors for Agency staff who were appointed after undertaking an assessment of compliance with IR35.</p> <p>A review is to be commissioned by the Head of Corporate Governance using Internal Audit to determine the use of non-approved contractors to supply Agency staff and quantify the risk of non-compliance with IR35.</p>
Shunning the use of offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.	<p>The Council has not currently acquired any assets for commercial investment. It has agreed a recent Commercial Investment Strategy at December Cabinet but will ensure future investments are consistent with its Fair Tax obligations.</p> <p>One past investment entered a significant number of years whereby the Council has a minority shareholding is Oldham Property Partnerships where the parent company is registered in Luxembourg. This matter will be discussed with the Service going forward.</p>
Undertaking due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit are not being used inappropriately as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.	<p>The Council has in place process to ensure appropriate due diligence is undertaken on new arrangements on this matter.</p> <p>An approach will be agreed with the Head of Procurement for a periodic review of Key Suppliers within the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector whose circumstances may change as they deliver services to the Council.</p>
Ensuring that there is clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers and their consolidated profit and loss position, given that a lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.	<p>The Council has in place process to ensure appropriate due diligence is undertaken on new arrangements on this matter.</p> <p>An approach will be agreed with the Head of Procurement for a periodic review of Key suppliers whose circumstances may change as they deliver services to the Council.</p>
Promoting Fair Tax Mark certification to local businesses, our contractors and in any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.	The matter is to be discussed with the Boards of Unity and MioCare with a recommendation they adopt the Fair Tax Mark.

	An approach will be agreed with the Head of Procurement to ensure local contractors look to achieve certification.
Supporting local Fair Tax Week events and celebrating the tax contribution made by responsible business.	The Council in 2020 will participate in this and support the planned events. The date has been set as 13-21 June 2020.
Supporting Calls for Urgent Reform of EU and UK law to enable municipalities to revise their procurement policies and better penalise tax conduct and reward good tax conduct.	The Council will support appropriate suggestions for reforms to UK law on Fair Tax in the future. At present there has been no specific lobbying.