

COUNCIL

30 OCTOBER 2019

Proposed Amendment to Item No 18 Motion “Becoming a Fair Tax Council”

After “3. To require greater transparency from suppliers” **add**

“, and request that council-owned subsidiaries do likewise”

Delete the full stop after item 4 in the list and **add** the following new bullet points:

“5. To encourage transparency from large companies operating in the borough, including developers”

“6. To request that the administration conducts a formal Review of the fairness of the Council’s own tax collection practices - including reviewing the impact on residents of its use of bailiffs to recover Council Tax arrears, and full consideration of alternative approaches in operation at other councils - with a report on the results and recommendations of this Review to be considered by Cabinet no later than January 2020, and before any decision is made on new enforcement agent contracts (currently planned for February 2020).

If Agreed the motion would read:

The Royal Borough has supported fair trade since 2006 and works hard to promote the aims of the Fair Trade Foundation. In 2017 we published our independent Fairness Commission which set out a series of recommendations to improve mental health provision, relieve residents suffering from benefits sanctions, and provide additional support for residents burdened with unmanageable debt. The Leader of the Council put fairness as the fundamental theme at the heart of our next financial strategy. This motion, therefore, continues the theme of fairness in our Royal Borough.

At a time when Councils are struggling with deeper cuts, it makes sense that we use our spending power in favour of those companies that pay their taxes. As a public body we should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; by ensuring that companies are paying their proper share of tax and, as we go forward, refusing to go along with off-shore tax dodging when buying land and property.

We ask the Council to agree:

ITEM NO: 18 (proposed amendment)

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1. To sign up to the Fair Tax Mark - Councils for Fair Tax Declaration
2. To pursue exemplary tax conduct
3. To require greater transparency from suppliers, and request that council-owned subsidiaries do likewise
4. To implement the 2015 Public Contracts Regulations in respect of discretionary exclusions for non-payment of taxes
5. To encourage transparency from large companies operating in the borough, including developers
6. To request that the administration conducts a formal Review of the fairness of the Council's own tax collection practices - including reviewing the impact on residents of its use of bailiffs to recover Council Tax arrears, and full consideration of alternative approaches in operation at other councils - with a report on the results and recommendations of this Review to be considered by Cabinet no later than January 2020, and before any decision is made on new enforcement agent contracts (currently planned for February 2020).