

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Agenda 9b, Liberal Democrat Group Motion</b></p>
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**Council Meeting**

**6 December 2012**

**Ethical Consumer and Use of Tax Havens by Companies Operating Public Services**

This Council congratulates Ethical Consumer for its work exposing the poor ethical record of the companies being awarded contracts to run our public services; is deeply concerned that 13 of the 20 companies surveyed avoid tax through the use of tax havens; believes that the Council's procurement, at around £50 million a year, has the potential to have a major positive impact on the market for ethical goods and services; notes that whilst the Council has some ethical guidance regarding ethical procurement this policy could be significantly strengthened; and calls on the Council to bring forward a set of legally binding procurement rules that subject companies delivering and bidding for the delivery of public service contracts to high ethical, environmental and anti-tax avoidance standards as measured against the criteria developed by Ethical Consumer.

The Council requests the Chief Operating Officer to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to highlight the Council's support for the work and the concerns raised by the Ethical Consumer.

The Council's representatives on the appropriate bodies within the Local Government Association be requested to also highlight the Council's support for the work undertaken by the Ethical Consumer and through this encourage other Local Authorities to adopt a similar approach to tax avoidance.

Proposer: Councillor Steve Darling

Seconder: Councillor Ruth Pentney