

(4) PUBLIC QUESTIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, a question has been submitted, and a response provided, as follows:-

(1) From Mr. M Pratley of Cirencester

'Prime Minister Theresa May has promised a crackdown on corporate and personal tax avoidance. She said, "It doesn't matter to me whether you're Amazon, Google or Starbucks, you have a duty to put something back, you have a debt to fellow citizens and you have a responsibility to pay your taxes."

In the Fair Tax Mark campaign for local councils to tackle tax dodging it is envisaged that bidders for local council contracts would be asked to account for their past tax record. Does Cotswold District Council include any questions about companies' tax practices in their council procurement procedures?'

Response from Councillor Lynden Stowe

'Set out below is an extract from the Crown Commercial Service Standard Selection Questionnaire that we issue with all procurements over £10,000. All potential suppliers are required to complete the questionnaire as part of the tendering process:-

2.39(a)

Regulation 57(3)

Has it been established, for your organisation by a judicial or administrative decision having final and binding effect in accordance with the legal provisions of any part of the United Kingdom or the legal provisions of the country in which the organisation is established (if outside the UK), that the organisation is in breach of obligations related to the payment of tax or social security contributions?

2.39(b)

If you have answered yes to question 2.39(a), please provide further details. Please also confirm you have paid, or have entered into a binding arrangement with a view to paying, the outstanding sum including where applicable any accrued interest and/or fines.

Please Note: The authority reserves the right to use its discretion to exclude a potential supplier where it can demonstrate by any appropriate means that the potential supplier is in breach of its obligations relating to the non-payment of taxes or social security contributions.'

Notes:

(i) If the questioner is present at the Meeting, he will be entitled to ask one supplementary question arising directly out of either the answer given or the original question.

(ii) The Member to whom any supplementary question is addressed will try and answer any supplementary question at the Meeting; but if this is not possible, then

the Member will answer as much as possible at the Meeting and then provide a full response within five working days. If, for any reason, a full response cannot be provided within those five days, then a holding response will be sent to the questioner, along with the reason for delay and a likely timescale for the full response.

(END)