PAPER A



Minutes

Name of meeting FULL COUNCIL

Date and time WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2015 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM

Venue COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT

Present Cllrs Charles Chapman (Chairman), Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith,

Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, Richard Hollis, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, Geoff Lumley, John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Bob Seely, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ivor Warlow,

Roger Whitby-Smith, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle

Apologies Cllrs John Medland, Colin Richards, Ian Ward

34. Minutes

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on <u>2 September 2015</u> be confirmed.

35. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Dave Stewart declared an interest as he had a family member who worked at Weston Academy.

Councillor Graham Perks declared an interest as he was a resident in Ventnor.

Councillor John Howe declared an interest as he was a member of the Weston Academy Management Committee.

36. Public Question Time

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Mr David Pugh of	Mr Pugh was not in	The Executive Member
Shanklin	attendance to ask his	provided a written response

Name

Subject question.

Comment

which was available on the following link (PQ 16/15)

37. Chairman's Report

A written report had been circulated for information.

38. **Budget Review Update**

The Leader of the Council provided members with an update on the Council's financial position and moved the recommendations within the report, which was duly seconded.

Members were advised that the recommendations had come forward from the newly formed Budget and Policy Liaison Group meeting where they considered a range of potential budget saving areas.

There was some discussion around the Environment and Transport and Economy and Tourism Select Committees being discontinued and questioned the need to change the structure again as it was felt the Select Committees had started to make progress.

Members raised concerns regarding the cost of producing Executive Member reports for the Full Council meetings and believed that Executive Members writing their own reports would create a saving in officer time and allow them to do other work.

The following amendment to the motion was then moved by Councillor Richard Priest and duly seconded:

That Full Council defer the following:

- (b) The number of Council meetings is reduced to six a year (May AGM, July, September, November, January, and February. The timing of Executive meetings to be reviewed to ensure that there are no significant gaps in the ability of elected members to question Executive members at a public meeting. **And**
- (c) The Environment and Transport and Economy and Tourism Select Committees be discontinued and the membership of the Budget and Policy Liaison Group be changed to a membership of the Leader, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Public Health, Public Protection and PFI plus the chairs of the Employment Committee, Audit Committee plus two members from outside the Executive and no formal role on the Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Sub Committees.
- (d) The two members to have a specific focus on environment and transport and economy and tourism and be agreed by Annual Council by nomination and voting and that these positions be assessed by the independent remuneration panel for an appropriate special responsibility allowance. For 2015/16, up until the next Annual Council,

the existing select Committee Chairs continue their membership of the Budget and Policy Liaison Group.

At the conclusion of the debate a vote was taken by a show of hands and

RESOLVED:

THAT Full Council defer the following:

- (b) THAT the number of Council meetings be reduced to six a year (May AGM, July, September, November, January, and February. The timing of Executive meetings to be reviewed to ensure that there are no significant gaps in the ability of elected members to question Executive members at a public meeting be deferred.
- (c) THAT the Environment and Transport and Economy and Tourism Select Committees be discontinued and the membership of the Budget and Policy Liaison Group be changed to a membership of the Leader, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Public Health, Public Protection and PFI plus the chairs of the Employment Committee, Audit Committee plus two members from outside the Executive and no formal role on the Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Sub Committees be deferred.
- (d) THAT the two members have a specific focus on environment and transport and economy and tourism and be agreed by Annual Council by nomination and voting and that these positions be assessed by the independent remuneration panel for an appropriate special responsibility allowance. For 2015/16, up until the next Annual Council, the existing select Committee Chairs continue their membership of the Budget and Policy Liaison Group be deferred.

Following further debate a named vote was taken on recommendation (a) the results of which were as follows:

For (34)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett. Jonathan Gilbey, Luisa Hillard. John Hobart. Alan Hollands. Richard Hollis. John Howe. Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Gordon Kendall, Phil Jordan, Geoff Lumley. John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Richard Priest, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith, Wayne Whittle

Against (1)

Councillor Chris Whitehouse

RESOLVED:

(a) THAT the considerations to date be noted and it be agreed to receive a further report from the Budget and Policy Liaison Group at the Full Council Meeting on 25 November 2015.

39. Formation of Children's Services Committee

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee indicated that to ensure the function was effective, the terms of reference for both the Scrutiny Committee and the Children's Services Select Committee be amended so that a Children's Committee was formed with overview and scrutiny functions.

At the conclusion of the debate a named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (31)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, Richard Hollis, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle

Against (0)

Abstention (1)

Councillor Geoff Lumley

RESOLVED:

THAT the current terms of reference of both the Scrutiny Committee and Children's Services Select Committee be amended so that a Children's Committee is formed with overview and scrutiny functions in accordance with the terms of reference (attached to and forming part of these minutes) be agreed.

40. Terms of Reference Isle of Wight Pension Fund Committee

Members were advised that following on from the decision of full council in February 2015 the terms of reference of the Isle of Wight Pension Fund Committee need to be clarified and agreed to include decisions related to the Firefighters Pension Scheme, and to seek nomination of two elected members to become employer representatives on the Fire Pension Board.

At the conclusion of the debate a named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (32)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie. Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Conrad Gauntlett, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, Richard Hollis, Julie Jones-Evans, Stuart Hutchinson, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, Geoff Lumley, John Nicholson. Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks. Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Roger Whitby-Smith, Steve Stubbings, Ivor Warlow, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle

RESOLVED:

(i) THAT the terms of reference of the existing pension fund committee be amended by the addition of the following "To exercise all discretionary functions of a pension scheme manager including those relating to the fire pension scheme.

Councillors John Howe and Julie Jones-Evans were separately proposed and seconded. A named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (30)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry. Paul Bertie. Bob Blezzard, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Luisa Hillard, Conrad Gauntlett. John Hobart. Alan Hollands, Stuart Hutchinson. Phil Jordan. Gordon Kendall. Geoff Lumley. Lora Peacey-Wilcox, John Nicholson, Graham Perks, Daryll Pitcher, Matthew Price, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle

Abstention (2)

Councillors Julie Jones-Evans, Richard Hollis

RESOLVED:

THAT Councillor John Howe and Julie Jones-Evans be appointed as the employer representatives on the Fire Fighters Pension Board.

41. Executive

Reports of the Executive Members

(i) <u>The Leader and Executive Member for Children's Services and</u> Lead Member for Resources

A <u>written report</u> had been circulated for information.

Written questions were put to the Leader as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Priest	What response was made	The Leader provided a
	by this Authority to the	written response which
	current consultation on the	was available on the
	proposed closure of	following link (MQ 13/15)
	Weston Academy?	<u> </u>

Oral questions were put to the Leader as follows:

Name Cllr Lumley	Subject Can you advise who recommended the newly announced independent to lead the government funded task force for transport on the Island and confirm that he had no links with the franchise or the MP and his transport advisor?	Comment The Leader responded that the individual was very much an independent and not linked to either individual identified.
Cllr Lumley	Would you be absolutely certain that there were no links to the MP and transport advisor	The Leader advised that he would make the relevant enquiries and that Mr Garnett had been recommended by a member, he was also well known in transport circles
Cllr Price	Do you agree that there had been unnecessary concern to Carisbrooke School during the consultation which had an effect on GCSE results	The Leader explained that the consultation had to be completed and he felt that Carisbrooke's GCSE results had been good.
Cllr Price	Contrary to members discussions the closure of Carisbrooke still featured in the consultation which put undue pressure on the school	The Leader informed that advice had been taken regarding the timing of the consultation and he had been concerned regarding the results at Medina.
Cllr Stubbings	Would you accept a meeting outside the chamber to discuss Cllr Lumley's concerns raised earlier?	The Leader said he would.
Cllr Whitehouse	A transport report had been commissioned and provided and would that report be published in full?	The Leader advised that he would take advice on the agreement with the provider to ascertain if the whole report would be published.

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Whitehouse	Do you agree that the way	The Leader advised that
	the closure of Weston	the decision had been
	Academy was announced	made between AET and
	had financial implications	DfE; he agreed that the
	on both parents and staff at	timing could have been
	the school?	better and officers had
		worked with parents to find
		alternative school places.
		He also confirmed that the
		final decision had not been made.
Cllr Blezzard	When will I get a response	The Leader informed that
	to my six written questions	he would provide a written
	submitted to you last week?	response and that he had
		passed some of the
		questions to the relevant
		Executive member.

(ii) The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Integration, Human Resources and Corporate Governance

A written report had been circulated for information.

Written questions were put to the Deputy Leader as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Lumley	Asked what the current position was in regard to	The Deputy Leader provided a written
	the possibility of offering to	response which was
	accommodate Syrian families on the Isle of	available on the following
	Wight?	link (MQ 10/15) He also raised there would
	vvigitt!	be a meeting that he
		urged members to attend.
Cllr Lumley	Asked a supplementary	The Deputy Leader
•	question had the Deputy	welcomed the article.
	Leader seen an article that	
	Cllr Whitehouse had written	
	regarding the Syrian	
011 1	refugee issue.	
Cllr Lumley	What steps are taken by	The Deputy Leader
	our Electoral Registration	provided a written
	Officers to maximise voter	response which was
	registration on the Island?	available on the following link (MQ 11/15)
		III K (<u>IVIQ 1 1/13</u>)

Oral questions were put to the Deputy Leader as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Jones-	Can you advise the	The Deputy Leader also
Evans	measures in place to	had concerns and would

Name	Subject	Comment
	safeguard members when	take the matter forward
	visiting residents on ward issues.	and provide a response.
Cllr Blezzard	The charity that runs the	The Deputy Leader
	Youth cafe had expressed	advised that he had been
	an interest in taking on the	contacted by the group
	lease in their current	and was more than happy
	premises. Would the Executive member assist to	to inform Cllr Blezzard of the discussions that had
	ensure they get the lease?	taken place.
Cllr Stewart	Offered to see what	The Deputy Leader
	influence within	accepted the offer.
	government circles he	·
	could be regarding the	
	Syrian refugees matter.	
Cllr Bacon	Revive UK had expressed	The Deputy Leader
	an interest to meet. Would	advised he would meet
	you be available to meet with them?	with them.
Cllr Jones-	Asked if she could be	The Deputy Leader
Evans	involved in those	supported her
	discussions?	involvement.

(iii) Executive Member for Public Health, Public Protection and PFI

A <u>written report</u> had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Jones- Evans	Can you advise the benefits on the Public Health agenda with the introduction of 20mph speed limits and would he explain how local groups would get speed limits installed?	The Executive Member advised that a process was in place to apply for 20 mph speed limits to be introduced through Island Roads.
Cllr Jones- Evans	Can you explain the benefits to the Public Health agenda?	The Executive Member informed that this was a minor issue and he was willing to meet to discuss.
Cllr Pitcher	Would you agree that the need to progress quickly on Wootton Bridge would not affect tourist and transport links?	The Executive Member advised that Island Roads had moved quickly and work would commence in November 2015 with an end date of February 2016.
Cllr Whitehouse	Have you made a policy to review the PFI contract?	The Executive Member agreed there had been

Name	Subject	Comment errors in the PFI contract and discussions had taken place to include areas that had been missed out of the contract.
Cllr Whitehouse	Areas of the contract had been raised as a legitimate concern for residents.	The Executive Member advised that he understood, although to add items to the contract would incur a cost.
Cllr Whittle	Did you receive clarity from Southern Water regarding completion of the memorial garden?	The Executive Member said that he hadn't looked that day; he had been assured that a condition to restore the memorial garden when work was completed had been agreed.

(iv) <u>Executive Member for Regeneration, Economy and Public Transport</u>

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment The Executive Member
Cllr Hollis	Can you advise what had been done to help businesses in East Cowes	The Executive Member would not comment on the current planning
	threatened by the Red Funnel planning application?	application and would discuss outside the meeting.
Cllr Hollis	Can the discussion take place in the public arena?	Discussions had taken place and it wasn't felt appropriate to discuss in a
Cllr Baker-Smith	I have been approached by a number of businesses in East Cowes; would you be willing to meet to discuss?	public meeting. The Executive Member said she would be available to meet and discuss if relevant Planning Officers we also available.
Cllr Baker-Smith	These are displaced businesses who had been caught up as they were tenants of land owners and had been looking for a solution for new premises	The Executive Member would be available to discuss

(v) <u>Executive Member for Sustainability and Organisational Change</u>

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows:

Name Cllr Price	Subject Can you confirm that residents with a commercial vehicle can no longer dispose of rubbish at landfill free of charge using their commercial vehicle?	Comment The Executive Member advised that those residents would be issued free of charge a number of permits to enable them to dispose of rubbish using their commercial vehicle.
Cllr Price	Who will pay for the possible increased fly tipping that may occur in wards that surrounded the landfill?	The Executive Member informed that fly tipping was an island-wide issue and if it was on the highway Island Roads would be responsible. All other fly tipping would be investigated.
Cllr Jones- Evans	Would the new contract ensure that wheelie bins were returned properly?	The Executive Member said that this would be raised with the contract team.
Clir Lumley	When would you admit that the waste contract is the next PFI? I feel we have missed a chance to make it better for islanders.	The Executive Member advised that the procurement process of the new contract had commenced prior to this administration and when questioned she had been advised that due to time scales a full review would not be possible.
Clir Kendall	There was a recent notice sent to householders regarding green waste, which advised that three days' notice had to be given; how were the three days calculated ie three	The Executive Member advised that she would check and felt that it would be a commonly asked question and would get it added to a list of frequently asked
Cllr Bloomfield	working days? Are the big Wight energy company and little Wight energy company the same thing?	questions. The Executive Member explained that it was not a council function.

(vi) Executive Member for Tourism, Culture and Heritage

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Stewart	Can you arrange for the annual ferry figures to be	The Executive Member advised that this
	made available to scrutiny?	information would be
		circulated.

(vii) <u>Executive Member for Planning, Licensing, Public Realm and Local Engagement</u>

A written report had been circulated for information.

Oral questions were put to the Executive Member as follows:

Name Cllr Jones- Evans	Subject Key areas across the Isle of Wight that are eyesores; can you update what enforcement doing regarding these?	Comment The Executive Member advised that if he was provided with the specifics of the areas he would investigate.
Cllr Whittle	Would you review amending the policy regarding the colour of beach huts?	The Executive Member agreed to take the matter forward.
Cllr Hollis	Due to the impact the planning application for Red Funnel would have on East Cowes, would the money be found to hold the planning committee meeting in East Cowes and extend the time for public speaking to allow residents to express their views?	The Executive Member advised that he would work with the Chairman of the planning committee and officers to come up with the best possible solution.
Cllr Whitehouse	Would you make it policy as we move forward with the pallet for beach huts?	The Executive Member agreed.
Cllr Nicholson	Do you recognise the concern for lack of bridle ways in areas across the Island forcing riders to use public highways?	The Executive Member informed that there were a number of ways to extend bridle ways and there would be potential to use forestry commission paths.
Cllr Hobart	Would Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty continue to be funded by the Isle of Wight Council?	The Executive Member advised that an announcement would be made imminently on the future of the AONB team.

42. Report of the Scrutiny Committee Chairman

A written report had been circulated for information.

Written questions were put to the Chairman as follows:

Name Cllr Lumley	Subject When would budget scrutiny resume under your chairmanship?	Comment The Chairman provided a written response which was available on the following link (MQ 12/15)
Cllr Lumley	Asked a supplementary question when the decision to suspend the Task and Finish Group as there was no longer scrutiny of budget?	The Chairman advised that the response would be circulated and the newly formed budget liaison group had been formed, he would provide a full written response.

Oral questions were put to the Chairman as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Jones-	In the work plan you would	The Chairman had
Evans	be investigating the delivery	arranged a meeting with
	of planning services; would	planning officers and
	planning enforcement be	would be inviting people to
	included?	scrutiny to answer
		questions.
Cllr Stubbings	Question for Cllr Priest, a	The Chairman of scrutiny
	meeting had been arranged	answered in Cllr Priest's
	to meet with the CQC and	absence that diaries would
	asked if Cllr Priest would be	be checked and if
	interested in attending?	available would attend.
Cllr Nicholson	Would you supply a report	The Chairman would
	on the work undertaken by	provide a report.
	you as the chairman of the	
.	Police and Crime Panel?	
Cllr Lumley	I would be interested to see	The Chairman was unsure
	how the Isle of Wight were	of the question asked.
	represented at the Police	
	and Crime Panel meetings.	

43. Report of Committee Chairman

Employment Committee Chair (Cllr Geoff Lumley) presented a written report.

Whilst not required by the constitution, given the nature of the questions to be asked the Chairman of the Council agreed that for this meeting oral questions could be put to the Chair of the Employment Committee as follows:

Name	Subject	Comment
Cllr Stewart	Can you confirm that the	The Chair of the
	recent recruitment drive for	committee agreed.
	a new Chief Executive had	
	drawn a substantial number	
	of applicants and therefore	
	agree that the decision to	
	advertise external was	
	good?	
Cllr Jones-	Can you advise how on	
Evans	your Committee you had	
	addressed gender and	•
	equality?	with officers regarding
		policy although it was felt
		that staff bullying policies
		had been more of a
		priority it would be brought
		to Committee to review.
Cllr Whitehouse	In light of Cllr Stewart's	
	question, would you agree doing an excellent job?	committee agreed.

44. Motion submitted under Procedure Rule 10 of the Council's Constitution

By Councillor Geoff Lumley

The following was moved by Cllr Lumley:

Council notes:

- It has been estimated that the UK Treasury loses as much as £12 billion to tax dodging by multinational companies every year. Developing countries also lose three times more to tax dodging than they receive in aid each year - enough to give a basic education to the 57 million children currently missing out.
- The UK has a particular responsibility to end tax dodging, as it is responsible for 1 in 5 of the world's tax havens in the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.
- The use of tax havens by UK companies is rife, with 98 of the FTSE 100 companies routinely using tax havens.
- Large multinational companies pay as little as 5% in corporate taxes globally, while smaller businesses pay up to 30%.

Council believes:

 As a local authority we have a duty to provide the best possible public services.

- Our ability to provide quality local services would be significantly enhanced by the increased revenues from the government tackling tax dodging.
- All who benefit from public spending should contribute their fair share.
- The UK must take a lead role in creating a fairer tax system and combatting tax dodging.

Council resolves:

- To support the campaign for tax justice, supporting the statement:

"While many ordinary people face falling household income and rising costs of living, some multinational companies are avoiding billions of pounds of tax from a tax system that fails to make them pay their fair share. Local governments in the UK and developing countries alike would benefit from a fairer tax system where multinational companies pay their fair share, enabling authorities around the world to provide quality public services. The UK government must listen to the strength of public feeling and act to end the injustice of tax dodging by large multinational companies, in developing countries and the UK."

In moving the motion Councillor Lumley noted that a possible amendment had been circulated in writing but indicated that he was willing to add the proposed amendment to the original motion. The supporter of the amendment (Councillor Hutchinson) welcomed this and therefore the following was added to the above motion:

THAT council also resolves:

To support the Government in the lead it has taken to require multinational companies to pay a fairer share of tax, as exemplified in the "diverted profits" tax legislation which came into effect earlier this year, requiring all companies to pay 25% tax on profits assessed by HMRC as having been artificially diverted from the UK.

To endorse the government's initiative to help developing countries strengthen their tax systems by funding, through the Department for International Development, a programme of international tax seminars run by HMRC, thus enabling developing countries to build capacity to claim their tax entitlement from multinationals and to participate in the Multilateral Convention on sharing tax information.

To support the OECD proposals, initiated by the UK government at the 2013 G8 meeting and announced just six days ago, to curb tax base erosion and profit shifting by multinationals, which are expected to be formally ratified at the G20 summit this number.

At the conclusion of the debate a named vote was taken the result of which was as follows:

For (27)

Councillors Jonathan Bacon, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Paul Bertie, Ray Bloomfield, Rodney Downer, David Eccles, Paul Fuller, Luisa Hillard, John Hobart, Alan Hollands, Stuart Hutchinson, Phil Jordan, Gordon Kendall, Geoff Lumley, John Nicholson, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Graham Perks, Matthew Price, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Steve Stubbings, Ivor Warlow, Roger Whitby-Smith, Chris Whitehouse, Wayne Whittle

Abstention (1)

Councillor Daryll Pitcher

RESOLVED:

- (I) THAT Council:
- Supports the campaign for tax justice, supporting the statement:

"While many ordinary people face falling household income and rising costs of living, some multinational companies are avoiding billions of pounds of tax from a tax system that fails to make them pay their fair share. Local governments in the UK and developing countries alike would benefit from a fairer tax system where multinational companies pay their fair share, enabling authorities around the world to provide quality public services. The UK government must listen to the strength of public feeling and act to end the injustice of tax dodging by large multinational companies, in developing countries and the UK."

(II) THAT council also resolves:

To support the Government in the lead it has taken to require multinational companies to pay a fairer share of tax, as exemplified in the "diverted profits" tax legislation which came into effect earlier this year, requiring all companies to pay 25% tax on profits assessed by HMRC as having been artificially diverted from the UK.

To endorse the government's initiative to help developing countries strengthen their tax systems by funding, through the Department for International Development, a programme of international tax seminars run by HMRC, thus enabling developing countries to build capacity to claim their tax entitlement from multinationals and to participate in the Multilateral Convention on sharing tax information.

To support the OECD proposals, initiated by the UK government at the 2013 G8 meeting and announced just six days ago, to curb tax base erosion and profit shifting by multinationals, which are expected to be formally ratified at the G20 summit this number.