



## **Tax Policy–September 2017**

This document has been approved by the board of SSP Group plc (the “Company”) and sets out the Company’s policy and approach to conducting its tax affairs and to dealing with tax risk. It has been published in accordance with the Company’s duty to publish a tax strategy under Schedule 19 of the Finance Act 2016 for the financial year ending 30 September 2017. The board will review the tax strategy annually and publish the updated policy accordingly.

The legislation requires the Company to set out its approach and attitude on a number of areas concerning UK taxation and its relationship with the UK tax authorities. Accordingly, this policy focuses on the Company’s tax policy and to the Company’s dealings with HMRC. Wherever possible, the Company strives to apply the same principles and conduct to its dealings with overseas Tax Authorities.

### **Attitude Towards Tax Planning and Level of Tax Risk**

The Company’s strategy is to focus on creating long-term, sustainable value for its shareholders by being ‘The Food Travel Experts’. As part of this strategy, the Company is committed to being a responsible business that listens to all its stakeholders and to maintaining the standards its customers and other stakeholders expect from the Company.

The Company’s attitude towards tax planning is one of responsible compliance and low risk that creates value for all stakeholders by driving sustainable results and avoiding reputational risk. The Company aims to minimize risks which give rise to tax uncertainty by making reasonable interpretations of tax legislation which are in the spirit of the law, and by pursuing a relationship of co-operative compliance with HMRC and overseas tax authorities where possible.

Tax planning is undertaken only to the extent that it is based on commercial and economic substance. The Company does not pursue tax planning that creates abusive results or wholly artificial arrangements, but will respond to tax incentives, reliefs and exemptions to the extent they are available and commercially applicable.

### **Risk Management and Governance**

The Company recognises the complexity and inherent risk that come with operating in an international environment and seeks to mitigate that risk by applying relevant OECD guidelines and principles, and by obtaining advice from reputable advisors on areas of significant complexity or uncertainty.

Overall responsibility for the Company’s tax strategy and tax risk management rests with the board of the Company. Tax risks are assessed as part of the Company’s formal governance processes and key tax strategies and risks are presented regularly to both the Risk and Audit Committees.

### **Relationship with HMRC**

The Company actively pursues a relationship with HMRC that is open and transparent. Members of the Company's tax department meet regularly with HMRC, working on a collaborative basis to achieve early agreement on any disputed issues. The Company welcomes the opportunity of working with HMRC on a real-time basis as it believes it helps reduce uncertainty and drives value for all stakeholders in the Company's business.