
Report of the Chief Executive
Portfolio of the Executive Member for Housing & Safer Neighbourhoods

Executive

15 March 2018

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Transparency Statement

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to consider and approve the content of the Council's Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement.

Recommendation

2. Executive is asked to consider and agree the statement in Annex A which demonstrates the Council's commitment to ensuring that there are no victims of slavery or human trafficking employed directly by the Council, in its commissioned services or supply.

Reason: To comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to publish a statement.

Background and analysis

3. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 aims to address slavery and trafficking in the 21st century by enhancing support and protection for victims and consolidates various offences relating to human trafficking and slavery.
4. The Act provides a definition of what constitutes slavery, specifically servitude, forced labour, sexual exploitation for money, human trafficking and forced or servile marriage. The industry areas where slavery is most likely include agriculture, construction, hospitality and the manufacturing sector. The Council has a duty to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking.
5. Section 54 of the Act requires commercial organisations to produce a modern slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year setting out what they have done to ensure there is no modern slavery in its supply chains or any part of its business. A link to this statement must be published in a prominent place on their website's homepage. A Bill

currently before Parliament will confirm that local authorities are covered by this provision.

6. In addition to the Council's own statement, procurement documentation will need to be amended in order to ask particular questions in future tender exercises to ensure potential suppliers are meeting this duty before awarding contracts.
7. The actions the Council will undertake during the forthcoming financial year include:
 - a. An update on Modern Slavery in the members training programme
 - b. Ensuring clear cross reference to the statement within safeguarding policies
 - c. Ensuring Modern Slavery continues to be included in the staff training programme
 - d. Review the information provided to and required from suppliers
 - e. Reviewing the Council's procurement documentation to include Modern Slavery provisions
 - f. Working with strategic partners and current suppliers to ensure they are aware of the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act 2015
 - g. Developing awareness campaigns for staff
 - h. Identifying areas at potential risk of modern slavery and human trafficking and taking steps to manage that risk

Consultation

8. This statement has been the subject of discussions with safeguarding teams for both adults and children, Council Management Team and the Community Safety Team.

Implications

9. The legal implications are set out in the body of the report. There are no financial, human resources, One Planet Council / equalities, crime and disorder, information technology, property or other implications.

Risk Management

8. Failure to produce a modern slavery transparency statement could result in legal challenge and result in reputational damage to the Council. Failure to complete the actions outlined could result in victims of human slavery or human trafficking being used to deliver Council contracts.

Contact Details

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Mary Weastell
Chief Executive

Report
Approved

Date 20 February 2018

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annex A - Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2018/19