



CABINET - 24 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval to publish a statement detailing the Council's approach to tackling modern slavery and human trafficking.

Recommendations

2. The Cabinet is recommended to:
 - (a) Approve the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement attached as an appendix to this report;
 - (b) Note that this Statement will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis at the end of each financial year and published on the Council's website.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 places a requirement on commercial organisations (with a global turnover above £36m and which carries out business in any part of the UK) to prepare and publish an annual statement setting out the steps they have taken, during that financial year, to ensure that slavery and human trafficking are not taking place anywhere in their supply chains and in any part of their own business. Whilst the Council is excluded from this requirement as it is not a commercial organisation, ethically it is felt that in promoting the Council's stance on serious and organised crime such a statement should be published on a voluntary basis.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. The Statement will be published on the Council's website following approval by the Cabinet and updated on an annual basis.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. None.

Resources Implications

6. All activities are being undertaken within existing resources.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

7. None.

Officers to Contact

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PART B

Background

8. Modern Slavery is a serious crime which comprises slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking.
9. Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 was brought into force on 29th October 2015 and requires employers with a global turnover above £36m who carry out business in any part of the UK to produce a modern slavery and human trafficking statement for financial years ending on or after 31st March 2016.
10. According to Section 54 of the Act, the modern slavery and human trafficking statement should set out what steps the organisation has taken to ensure modern slavery is not taking place in its business or supply chains. The statement should aim to include the following information:
 - The organisation's structure, its business and its supply chains;
 - Its policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;
 - Its due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains;
 - The parts of its business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps it has taken to assess and manage that risk;
 - Its effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or supply chains, measured against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate;
 - The training and capacity building about slavery and human trafficking available to its staff.
11. Leicestershire County Council is committed to understanding the risks presented by modern slavery and to ensuring that there is no slavery or victims of human trafficking working within the Council, the companies it commissions services from or its supply chain. In addition to its own statement, the Council is required to obtain copies of statements from its qualifying suppliers. Tender documentation has therefore been updated to ask potential suppliers specific questions relating to this requirement.

Human Resources Implications

12. A review has been completed of the Council's current employment policies and practices to ensure that they are in support of the organisation's commitment to preventing slavery and human trafficking. Whilst, no changes have been identified, steps are being taken to introduce appropriate training and awareness-raising for certain employees.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

13. The actions set out in the attached Statement will help to address the abuse of human rights resulting from modern slavery and human trafficking.

Appendix

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2016-2017

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