



## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 23 JANUARY 2026**

### **CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES AND DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the revised Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the Committee's approval.

#### **Background**

2. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 places a requirement on commercial organisations (with a global turnover above £36m and which carry 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.
3. 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.
4. Leicestershire County Council is committed to understanding the risks presented by modern slavery and to ensuring that there are no slavery or victims of human trafficking working within the Council, the companies it commissions services from, or its supply chain.
5. The Commissioning Support Unit of the Corporate Resources Department developed the "Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement" originally with input from Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Modern Slavery Action Group (LLRMSAG). The Statement details the Council's approach to tackling modern slavery and human trafficking and includes the information as required in Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act.

#### **Proposals regarding the Modern Slavery Statement**

6. In line with best practice, the Council has carefully reviewed all the latest guidance and advice including Procurement Policy Note (PPN) 009, which replaced Procurement Policy Note 02/23 for procurements commencing on or after February 2025 and has rewritten its Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement to ensure full alignment with these standards. The guidance in PPN009 supports all central government departments, their executive agencies, and non-departmental public bodies in identifying and managing risks in both new procurement activity and existing contracts.
7. The main changes to the statement include:
  - Alignment with the Procurement Act 2023.
  - Updated risk assessment criteria, reflecting current global risks in key sectors.
  - Enhanced due diligence for high risk contracts.

### **Future reporting arrangements**

8. The Modern Slavery Statement will undergo an annual review by the Head of Procurement and Supply Chain Management to ensure its continued relevance. It will only be resubmitted to the Corporate Governance Committee if significant legislative or procedural changes necessitate substantial revisions.

### **Equality Implications**

9. Having an appropriate modern slavery statement is not only compatible with equality objectives but actively supports them by safeguarding vulnerable individuals and promoting fair treatment across all council operations and supply chains.

### **Human Rights Implications**

10. There are no negative human rights implications identified; rather, the process strengthens the Council's role as a protector and promoter of human rights.

### **Recommendation**

11. The Committee is recommended to approve the revised Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking statement.

### **Background Papers**

The Constitution of Leicestershire County Council

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1187&MId=7661&Ver=4&Info=1>

**Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None

**Appendices**

Proposed Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for 2026.

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