

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**CABINET – 31 MAY 2018****MODERN SLAVERY ACT – MODERN SLAVERY TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT FOR 2018/19****REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE, PROCUREMENT AND COMMISSIONING****LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR L D CARTER****PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT****1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

The Council recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 states that any commercial organisation with a minimum turnover of £36M is required to produce an annual Modern Slavery Transparency Statement and have an Anti-Slavery Policy. It is recognised as good practice for all councils to also follow this requirement. Telford & Wrekin Council's policy has been in place for a year and this report provides information on action to date to help prevent modern slavery in our corporate activities.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Cabinet to note the contents of this report and approve the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for 2018/19 as attached at Appendix A
- 2.2 Cabinet to delegate responsibility for the annual review and publication of the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement to the Assistant Director of Governance, Procurement & Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Council Finance, Partnerships and Commercial Services

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	Protecting our vulnerable adults and children and ensuring the borough is a safe place to live.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	No	
	31 st May 2018	

FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT		<p>Any costs associated with the ongoing and new work detailed within Appendix A to take place in 2018-19, to identify and help eradicate modern slavery in our activities, will be met from within existing resources.</p> <p>TAS 1.5.18</p>
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	<p>It is a legal requirement under s.54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2016 for certain commercial organisations whose annual turnover is £36m or above, to prepare a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains and in any parts of its own business.</p> <p>The anti-slavery statement will need to be reviewed and approved every financial year. A failure to do so will constitute an offence and the Secretary of State may seek an injunction in the High Court requiring an organisation to comply.</p> <p>There will be ongoing obligations as set out in the proposed anti-slavery statement to ensure training, prevention and detection measures are in place to avoid breach of the statement.</p> <p>Public Authorities including local authorities will also be required under the Modern Slavery Act to notify the government where they have reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim of slavery or human trafficking. Embedded in the corporate procurement processes is the requirement for stringent due diligence on all economic operators competing for public works, services and supply contracts, to determine compliance and suitability on the issue of Modern Slavery. For example, as part of the supplier selection procurement process, the Council has provided in its standard Selection Questionnaire, a modern slavery section which requires our potential supplier to confirm whether it is compliant with the annual reporting requirements within the Modern Slavery Act, if applicable. The Council will continue to support initiatives to promote, uphold the principles and enforce the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to eradicate exploitation, inequality and abuse of vulnerable sections of the community.</p> <p>MG 01/05/18</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	<p>As part of Local Government, the Council has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. In addition to the Council's responsibility as an employer, it also has a duty as a</p>

		Council to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 in Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children, especially around child exploitation and human trafficking.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide impact

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

- 4.1 This report presents this year’s Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for approval at Appendix A. The statement sets out ongoing and new work to identify and help eradicate modern slavery in our activities
- 4.2 The prevention, detection and reporting of modern slavery in any part of the council’s business or supply chains is the responsibility all employees. Our policy and procedures relating to modern slavery are in line with our culture and values of treating everyone in an open and transparent way with fairness and respect and are mirrored in our own internal processes.
- 4.3 Our recruitment process is in line with employment law by ensuring that document checks confirm people have a ‘right to work’ and they are of a legal age to do so. Our officers are all paid at market rates and we take their physical, mental health and lifestyle choices seriously with our ‘Five Ways to Wellbeing’ programme.
- 4.4 In our professional capacity, we must all be able to recognise the indicators of modern slavery, know the signs to look out for and within the supply chain and the potential for modern slavery linked to the services or goods being provided. It’s also key that we all know how to respond if modern slavery is suspected. In the past year we have created an eLearning package, promoted awareness on Anti-Slavery Day and supported officers in working with their suppliers and providers to understand how modern slavery could be a hidden crime in their area or supply chain.
- 4.5 In the next 12 months we will continue to promote awareness through training and an interactive event at the Leadership Forum. We have included a section within the Annual Governance Statement for SDMs to record that they have given due consideration to the possibilities of Modern Slavery in their service area and supply chain and taken action accordingly.
- 4.6 We will continue to map our supplier profile and work with a cross section of suppliers and providers to dig deep into the potential for modern slavery in, initially, IT, construction, social care, transport and food supply chains. We will also look to collaborate with those suppliers and providers where no such commitment is in place to help them better understand their responsibilities and compliance with best practise.
- 4.7 Our SDM for Community Safety, Cohesion & Environmental Enforcement is working closely with the lead from West Mercia Police who manages their action plan for human trafficking and Modern Slavery. The action plan feeds into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and allows them to report on action taken. We will be taking lessons learned from the action plan and look to see how we can develop a similar reporting mechanism.

- 4.8 In our Business Supporting, Business Winning role, it's essential that we can prove to prospective buyers that we take the threat of modern slavery in our own supply chain seriously and can show how we guard against it.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 5.1 This statement sets out Telford & Wrekin's Council's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to its business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business, and its supply chains. This statement relates to actions and activities during the financial year 2018/19.
- 5.2 As part of Local Government, the Council recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. In addition to the Council's responsibility as an employer, it also acknowledges its duty as a Council to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- 5.3 The Council is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking. This is managed by officers being made aware of the potential for modern slavery risks through awareness training and when procuring goods or services, officers will ensure that as part of tender evaluation and ongoing contract management they will consider the potential and likelihood of modern slavery through a clear understanding of the supplier's:
- Structure, business and supply chains;
 - Policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;
 - Due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains;
 - Business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps that it has taken to assess and manage that risk;
 - 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; and
 - Training about slavery and human trafficking available to its staff.

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

CB060 - 2nd February 2017

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS



Transparency
Statement v1 2018201

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