



## Health, Wellbeing & Vulnerable People Executive Advisory Panel 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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| <b>Report Title</b>  | Modern Slavery Statement 2021-22                                |
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| <b>Lead Member</b>   | Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities – Cllr Andy Mercer |

### 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1. Modern slavery is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. It covers a wide range of abuse and exploitation including sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting.
- 1.2. This statement needs to be approved by both Executive and Full Council in order to conform to requirements of Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report presents for approval the Modern Slavery Statement 2021-22. Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 places a requirement on all 'commercial organisations' with a turn-over in excess of £36 million per annum to publish an annual Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement to confirm what they have done in the year to address the risks to human rights in their supply chains.

### 3. Recommendations

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- 3.1 It is recommended that the Executive Advisory Panel considers the statement on Modern Slavery as a position statement for North Northamptonshire Council as set out in the Appendices and provides feedback and advice as considered appropriate to the Executive.

#### Reasons for recommendation

Organisations must publish an annual statement setting out the steps they take to prevent modern slavery in their business and their supply chains. This

is a requirement under section 54 (Transparency in Supply Chains) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

#### **4. Report Background**

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4.1 Modern slavery is a crime resulting in an abhorrent abuse of human rights. It is constituted in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 by the offences of 'slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour' and 'human trafficking'.

#### **5. Issues and Choices**

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5.1 The Council is required to have a Modern Slavery Statement in place and published on the website.

#### **6. Implications (including financial implications)**

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##### **6.1 Resources and Financial**

6.1.1 The council is required to ensure that officers are aware of the threat of modern slavery across the council infrastructure and contractors. Online training and information will be made available to staff to make sure that everyone is aware of the duty we have as the local authority. This will be resourced from within the existing budgets.

##### **6.2 Legal**

6.2.1 The modern slavery statement must be approved by both the Executive and Full Council in order to conform to requirements of Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 that requires certain organisations to develop a slavery and human trafficking statement each year.

##### **6.3 Risk**

6.3.1 In order to reduce any risk of legal challenge to the authority for legal action taken, it is necessary to have an approved and published modern slavery statement that clearly sets out the council's responsibilities and published on the website.

##### **6.4 Consultation**

6.4.1 This statement has not been published for public consultation. This statement sets out how, as an authority, we will consider modern slavery while carrying out the tasks that we are responsible for and will be on the website.

##### **6.5 Consideration by Scrutiny**

6.5.1 This statement has not been considered by Scrutiny during its formulation but has been considered by the Executive Advisory Panel.

## **6.6 Climate Impact**

6.6.1 There is no adverse climate impact arising from the adoption and application of this statement, however environmental improvement will be achieved through some of the actions completed provided within it.

## **6.7 Community Impact**

6.7.1 This policy affects all areas and communities of the authority from businesses to individuals. The aim of the statement is to set out in a clear and transparent way how the Council will manage its approach to modern slavery. The statement will be added to the website and will be updated annually in line with government guidance.

## **7. Background Papers**

7.1 Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015

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