

EXECUTIVE 18th November 2021

Report Title	Modern Slavery Statement 2021-22
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Executive Member	Cllr Andy Mercer, Executive Member for Housing and Communities

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1974	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Modern Slavery Statement

1. Purpose of Report

- 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 is proposed to Executive and full Council to endorse to promote the Council's commitment to the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report presents for approval the Modern Slavery Statement 2021-22 (**Appendix A**). 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. The Council is a statutory organisation rather than a

commercial organisation, however the principles enshrined in this legislation are important and should be endorsed at the highest levels of the organisation.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves the statement on Modern Slavery as a position statement for North Northamptonshire Council.

3.2 Reasons for recommendation

To promote the abolition of modern slavery, commercial organisations are required to 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. It is considered good practice for organisations which are not required to publish such a statement to do so in any event to demonstrate their commitment to the principles contained in the legislation.

4. Report Background

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

5.1 The Council could choose not to adopt the statement as there is no statutory requirement upon it to publish such a statement. However, there is no detriment to the Council demonstrating its commitment to the principles enshrined in the statement, and it is considered that by adopting and publishing such a statement, the Council affirms its desire to ensure that North Northamptonshire is a good place to live, work and do business.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

6.1.1 The Council will 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 Council is not required to approve the statement as it is not within the definition of a commercial organisation, as set out at Section 54 of the Modern

Slavery Act 2015, however it is good practise for the principles in the statement to be adopted.

6.3 Risk

- 6.3.1 The risk of not having a modern slavery statement is reputational in nature. The Council wishes to demonstrate good leadership to the community and therefore it is appropriate for this statement to be adopted.

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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