

# Agenda Item IMD14

## INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REFERENCE IMD: 2022/14

<b>TITLE</b>	Modern Slavery Statement
<b>DECISION TO BE MADE BY</b>	Executive Member for Equalities, Inclusion and Fighting Poverty - Rachel Bishop-Firth
<b>DATE, MEETING ROOM and TIME</b>	14 October 2022 SF2 at 12:15PM
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>DIRECTOR / KEY OFFICER</b>	Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT (Inc Strategic Outcomes)**

Certain commercial 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.

A commercial organisation is required to publish an annual statement if all the criteria below apply:

- It is a 'body corporate' or a partnership, wherever incorporated or formed
- It carries on a business, or part of a business, in the UK
- It supplies goods or services
- It has an annual turnover of £36 million or more

Organisations are responsible for determining whether the legislation applies to them.

It is proposed that Wokingham Borough Council voluntarily publishes a modern slavery statement to evidence ethical leadership; and the appended document puts forward the proposed position on the recommended areas (guidance from Home Office):

1. Organisation structure and supply chains
2. Policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking
3. Due diligence processes
4. Risk assessment and management
5. Key performance indicators to measure effectiveness of steps being taken
6. Training on modern slavery and trafficking

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Executive Member for Equalities, Inclusion and Fighting Poverty:

- 1) Approve the Modern Slavery Statement as set out in appendix 1 to the report;
- 2) Notes that if approved the statement is then to be published on the Council's web page and the Home Office registry of modern slavery statements – to be published by October 2022.

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The Modern Slavery Statement follows guidance set out by the Home Office & reflects the position within Wokingham Borough Council.

The statement (appended) sets out the position around modern slavery under the following headings:

**Introduction**

**Organisational Structure and Supply Chains**

**Assessing and Managing Risk**

**Procurement**

**Due Diligence**

**Organisational Policies**

**Corporate Strategy for Procurement, Commissioning and Contract Management**

**Equality Plan**

**Safeguarding Policies**

**Whistleblowing Policy**

**Recruitment Policies**

**Conduct Policy**

**Training**

**Performance Indicators**

**Review arrangements**

## Background

Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires certain organisations to develop a slavery and human trafficking statement each year. The slavery and human trafficking statement should set out what steps organisations have taken to ensure modern slavery is not taking place in their business or supply chains.

The Home Office has published guidance on the requirement and development of Modern Slavery Statements. Other local authorities that have published statements include neighbouring authorities such as West Berkshire Council, Oxfordshire Council, Bracknell Forest Council; with over 160 Councils having published statements to date.

It is proposed that Wokingham Borough Council voluntarily publishes its Modern Slavery Statement to display ethical leadership in this area. The statement will require an annual update, and visibility on both the Councils web page & Home Office registry.

### Business Case (including Analysis of Issues)

No business case – the modern slavery statement will display ethical leadership on the issues, supporting the ambition to eradicate this issue from the Councils supply chain.

The statement will require an annual review & update, to follow 6 months after financial year end.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

***The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	No effect	No effect	n/a
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	No effect	No effect	n/a
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	No effect	No effect	n/a

### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

N/A

### Cross-Council Implications

Ownership of the Modern Slavery Statement & action relevant actions will be owned centrally and delivered through a hub and spoke approach to include all relevant Council Services.

<b>Public Sector Equality Duty</b>
Due regard has been given to WBC's duties under the Equalities Act.

<b>SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES</b>	
<b>Director – Resources and Assets</b>	No comment
<b>Monitoring Officer</b>	To be updated at meeting
<b>Leader of the Council</b>	To be updated at meeting

<b>Reasons for considering the report in Part 2</b>
N/A

<b>List of Background Papers</b>
Modern Slavery Statement (appended)

<b>Contact</b> Rob Bradfield	<b>Service</b> Business Services
<b>Telephone No</b> 0118 974 6000	<b>Email</b> rob.bradfield@wokingham.gov.uk