



REPORT TO: Leader

8 Apr 2020

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Leader

LEAD OFFICER: Director of Corporate Services

Modern Slavery Statement

Executive Summary

1. This report presents the Modern Slavery Statement for South Cambridgeshire District Council for the financial year 2020-2021. The statement sets out actions and steps the Council will take through its policies, processes and procedures to understand and prevent modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains and activities.
2. This is not a key decision.

Recommendations

3. The Leader is requested to:
 - a) review and approve publication of the Modern Slavery Statement attached at **Appendix A**;
 - b) approve the action plan detailed within the Modern Slavery Statement at **Appendix A**.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The above recommendations are required to ensure that the Council meets its statutory duty to publish an annual statement detailing the actions being taken to tackle modern slavery, in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
5. Beyond our legal requirements, these recommendations will assist in the mitigation of risks posed by modern day slavery to both South Cambridgeshire residents and the Council, as outlined in paragraphs 9 and 10.
6. The actions detailed with the Modern Slavery Statement action plan (included within the wider statement at **Appendix A**) broadly align with the Council's Business Plan 2020-25, including on-going objectives to 'focus on the health and wellbeing of our communities through everything we do' and 'develop and support Councillors and officers to ensure that they can best serve our communities'.

Implications

7. In the writing of this report, taking into account, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:

Legal

8. In accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, South Cambridgeshire District Council is required to produce a slavery and human trafficking statement each financial year.

Risks/Opportunities

9. According to the '2019 UK annual report on modern slavery' in 2018 there were 6,985 potential victims referred to the National Referral Mechanism (the UK's identification and support system for victims of modern slavery) - a 36% increase since 2017. The same document indicates that the number of modern slavery crimes recorded by the Police for 2018-19 was 5,059 - a 49% increase compared to the previous year. This increase reflects a heightened risk of potential modern slavery case occurrences across the UK, including within this district and region.
10. The creation and publication of the Modern Slavery Statement and the implementation of the action plan within therefore mitigates a range of risks associated with modern slavery. These include risks to:
 - Health and wellbeing of South Cambridgeshire residents
 - Organisational reputation
 - Financial risks as a result of potential court actions
 - Legal risks as a result of a failure to meet duties under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Equality and Diversity

11. Modern slavery does not relate directly to those with protected characteristics; however modern slavery often impacts the most vulnerable in society, including those from protected characteristic groups.
12. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken prior to any action that will lead to the implementation of a new proposal or a review.

Consultation responses

13. The Modern Slavery Statement at **Appendix A** has been created in consultation with officers from across the Council's services, including Procurement, HR, Sustainable Communities, Environmental Health and Licensing, and Housing.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

Housing that is truly affordable for everyone to live in

14. The Modern Slavery Statement aligns with the Council's on-going objective to 'focus on the health and wellbeing of our communities through everything we do'.

A modern and caring Council

15. Actions within the Modern Slavery Statement action plan include the delivery of training to staff and the identification of Councillor to act as Anti-slavery and Ethical Employment Champion. These actions align with the on-going objective to 'develop and support Councillors and officers to ensure that they can best serve our communities'.

Background Papers

None.

Appendices

Appendix A: South Cambridgeshire District Council Modern Slavery Statement 2020/21

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