

Proposed Decision to be made by the Leader of the Council on or after 9 August 2021

Modern Slavery Statement

Portfolio Holder	Lead Member
Date of decision	Decision Date
	Signed

Decision taken

That the Leader of the Council –

1. Approves the County Council's updated Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the financial year 2021/22.
2. Approves the publication of the Council's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement on the Central Government Registry

1.0 Reasons for decision

- 1.1 Making recommendations that the Leader of the Council approves the County Council's updated Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the financial year 2021/22.
- 1.2 Making recommendations that the Leader of the Council approves the publication of the County Council's updated Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the financial year 2021/22 on Central Government's Registry of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statements for the UK.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires certain organisations to develop a slavery and human trafficking statement each year. This includes commercial organisations which supply goods or services and have a total turnover of not less than £36m. Whilst it is not clear whether this requirement applies to local authorities, the legislation defines a

commercial organisation as a body corporate which carries on a business, or part of a business in any part of the United Kingdom. Therefore, it is likely that local authorities who provide some services directly and who have a turnover of £36m are required to publish a statement.

- 2.2 In any event, following an independent review of the Act in 2019 the Government consulted on measures to strengthen the regime and in September 2020 announced that the reporting requirements would be extended to public bodies which have a budget of more than £36m. It was also announced that a central registry for organisations to publish their statements on would be developed. This service was launched in March 2021 and whilst it is not currently mandatory to publish statements on the registry it is strongly encouraged and Central Government plans to make this a requirement under the legislation for any organisation that is required to produce a statement under section 54 of the Act.
- 2.3 As Warwickshire County Council is a body corporate that supplies services and has an annual turnover of over £36m, it is likely that it is required to produce a statement to comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015. In any event it is good practice to do so, and Central Government will be extending this duty to all public bodies which have a budget of more than £36m in due course.
- 2.4 The Council's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement is attached at the appendix. The statement is a public facing statement and once approved, it will be published on the Council's website.
- 2.5 In light of Central Government's announcement that all organisations who are required to produce a statement will also be required to publish it on the central registry, it is recommended that the Council's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement will also be published on the Central Government registry.
- 2.6 The statement must set out what steps the organisation has taken during the previous financial year to ensure that modern slavery is not taking place in any part of its business or supply chain.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The Council's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement sets out steps that Warwickshire County Council has taken to ensure modern slavery is not taking place within our business or supply chain. Since the 2020/2021 Statement, Central Government has launched a registry of organisations to share their statements: <https://modern-slavery-statement-registry.service.gov.uk/search>. It is recommended that the Council's completed statement should also be added to this site as this will soon be mandatory.

4.0 Analysis

- 4.1 Internet links in last year's Modern Slavery Statement have been updated. Mentions of the Council's "Code of Conduct" have been changed and linked to the Council's "Values and Behaviours" instead. New information has been added on training about human trafficking in the supply chain available to teams.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from the report. The actions and activity outlined within the Modern Slavery Statement can be delivered from within the County Council's existing resources.

6.0 Environmental implications

6.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from the report.

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Assistant Director	Sarah Duxbury
Lead Director	Rob Powell
Lead Member	LeadMember

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

Appendix A

- Modern Slavery Statement

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor I Seccombe

Corporate Board – Rob Powell

Legal – Sioned Harper

Finance –

Equality –

Democratic Services – Helen Barnsley

Councillors –

Local Member(s):