

To: City Executive Board
Date: 13 June 2018
Report of: Assistant Chief Executive
Title of Report: Modern Slavery Act – Transparency Statement 2017-2018

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To approve the Modern Slavery Act – Transparency Statement for 2017 – 2018.
Key decision:	No
Executive Board Member:	Cllr Hayes, Community Safety
Corporate Priority:	Efficient Effective Council and Strong Active Communities.
Policy Framework:	None
Recommendations: That the City Executive Board resolves to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2017-2018; and 2. Delegate the approval and publication of modern slavery transparency statement to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder. 	

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2017-2018

Introduction and background

1. All organisations with a turnover of £36 million or more are required under Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 (“the Act”) to prepare a slavery and human trafficking statement (“the Statement”) for each financial year.
2. A Statement must detail the steps taken during the previous financial year to ensure that no slavery or human trafficking is taking place in any part of its business or in any of its supply chains (or a declaration that no such steps have been taken). The Act requires a relevant organisation to publish its Statement on its website and to include a prominent link to the Statement from the homepage.
3. The obligation applies to financial years ending on or after 31 March 2016, and transparency statements should be published as soon as reasonably practicable after and ideally within six months of, the financial year end.
4. Modern slavery refers to slavery, servitude, human trafficking, and forced or compulsory labour. The National Crime Agency has highlighted that this is far more prevalent in the UK than previously thought, with tens of thousands of potential victims.
5. The Council recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. In addition to the Council’s responsibility as an employer, it acknowledges its duty to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by section 52 of the Act.
6. The Statement at Appendix 1 sets out practices the Council already in place and those actions it has committed to in response to its duties under the Act. It relates to the financial year 2017-18.
7. The Council’s Human Exploitation Coordinator will be putting in place processes and operational procedures to ensure the Council meets its obligations under the Act.

Financial implications

8. There are no financial implications. Officers will undertake any further work as part of their existing role.

Legal issues

9. Non-compliance with the Modern Slavery Act could result in the Secretary of State applying for an injunction to force compliance. If the Council still refused to comply it would be deemed to be in contempt of a court order, which is punishable by an unlimited fine.

Level of risk

10. The new reporting obligation does not require organisations to take active measures to eliminate modern slavery from their business and supply chains, but merely to disclose what (if any) steps they have taken or to state that they have taken no such steps.
11. A working group has been established and will be considering any further risks to the Council as part of the action planning process.

Equalities impact

12. Impacts on equalities are considered within the relevant policy and strategy documents where Modern Slavery is referred to.

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Background Papers: None

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