

West Suffolk Council

Cabinet Decisions Notice

(Published: Monday 15 March 2021)

The following decision was taken by the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities and by the Portfolio Holder for Governance on Thursday 11 March 2021 and, if not called in by councillors, will come into operation on Tuesday 23 March 2021. An executive decision may be called in, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules contained within Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, by at least five councillors submitting the required call-in request form to the Assistant Director (HR, Legal and Democratic Services) (e-mail: democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk) **by 5.00 pm on Monday 22 March 2021**. Should you have a query regarding any of the decisions taken, contact should be made with the named officer in the first instance, the relevant portfolio holder or via Democratic Services, West Suffolk Council, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk, IP33 3YU, or College Heath Road, Mildenhall, IP28 7EY.

| Agenda item and report number | Declarations of interest | Decision(s) (including recommendations to Council) | Reason(s) for decision(s) | Other options considered and reasons for rejection | Contacts |
|--|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| No agenda item as Portfolio Holder decision Report number CAB/WS/21/012 | None | Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement - Update Resolved: That: 1. The adoption of an updated Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement (as set out in Appendix B to Report number: CAB/WS/21/012), with accompanying internal communication activity to | West Suffolk Council had adopted a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement in 2017. The Statement had been written to cover the period up until 31 March 2020 and as such, required renewing. The renewal process had been delayed due to COVID-19 work. Meanwhile, the Government had announced on 22 September 2020, some | One alternative option would be to continue the use of the Council's current Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement. However, this was not recommended, as the previous approval only | Portfolio holders: Robert Everitt Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities 01284 769000 Carol Bull Portfolio Holder for Governance 01953 681513 |

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| | | <p>remind staff of their responsibilities, be approved.</p> <p>2. The Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities and the Portfolio Holder for Governance be committed to undertaking a wider review of the Council's responsibilities in this area once new legislation is passed by Parliament.</p> | <p>proposed amendments to the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which would bring local authorities within the scope of the public bodies (currently Government departments and some others) who already had to publish annual Modern Slavery statements and which would define the content of statements. These amendments followed a Government consultation in 2019. The amendments had not yet been passed by Parliament and the Government guidance on what these local authority documents would have to contain, had not yet been published.</p> <p>Therefore, it was proposed for the existing West Suffolk Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement to be refreshed, to bring it up-to-date. The Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities</p> | <p>covered the period to March 2020, and there were updates to how Modern Slavery responsibilities were handled within the Council.</p> <p>It would also be possible to carry out a more fundamental review of the Council's overall approach to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and to produce a more radically revised statement. However, this was not recommended</p> | <p>Officers: Davina Howes Assistant Director (Families and Communities) 01284 757070</p> <p>Jennifer Eves Assistant Director (HR, Legal and Democratic) 01284 757015</p> |

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| | | | <p>and the Portfolio Holder for Governance had approved the adoption of an updated Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement (as set out in Appendix B to Report number CAB/WS/21/012, with accompanying internal communication activity to remind staff of their responsibilities.</p> <p>In addition, due to the forthcoming Government requirement for all councils to produce annual statements on their actions to tackle modern slavery, the Portfolio Holders have also committed to the undertaking of a wider review of the Council's responsibilities in this area, once the new legislation had been passed by Parliament.</p> | <p>in advance of the changes to legislation that were forthcoming.</p> | |

Jennifer Eves
Assistant Director (Human Resources, Legal and Democratic Services)
15 March 2021