

Cabinet



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Title of Report:	Modern Slavery and Anti-Trafficking Statement	
Report No:	CAB/SE/17/039	
Report to and date:	Cabinet	27 June 2017
Portfolio Holder and Chairman of the Steering Group:	John Griffiths Leader of the Council Tel: 07958 700434 Email: john.griffiths@stedsbc.gov.uk	
Lead Officer:	Karen Points Assistant Director (HR, Legal & Democratic Services) Tel: 01284 757015 Email: karen.points@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	<p>1.1 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 is designed to tackle slavery in the UK and consolidates previous offences relating to trafficking and slavery.</p> <p>1.2 Section 54 requires commercial organisations with a turnover of more than £36m to publish an annual "<i>slavery and human trafficking statement</i>". Organisations are required to set out the steps they have taken to ensure that slavery is not taking place in any part of the business or supply chain.</p> <p>1.3 This statement, is made pursuant to section 54 (1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes our slavery and human trafficking statement relating to actions and activities during the financial year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020 and whilst local authorities are not required to comply, by law, with section 54 it is provided as a measure of best practice protecting our supply chain.</p>	

	1.4 It sets out the West Suffolk Councils' actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to their activities and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in their own activities and in their supply chains.		
Recommendation:	It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that Cabinet endorses and approves the Modern Slavery and Anti-Trafficking Statement 2017 set out in Appendix 1 of Report No: CAB/SE/17/039.		
Key Decision: <i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i>	<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<i>The decisions made as a result of this report will usually be published within 48 hours and cannot be actioned until five clear working days of the publication of the decision have elapsed. This item is included on the Decisions Plan.</i>			
Consultation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no requirement to consult on this Statement. 		
Alternative option(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a legal requirement to publish an Annual Statement, so no other options were considered. 		
Implications:			
Are there any financial implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	•
Are there any staffing implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	•
Are there any ICT implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	•
Are there any legal and/or policy implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires the Councils to consider Modern Slavery as part of its procurement strategy, ensuring that contractors and third parties have policies in place and adhere to the law and their responsibilities. West Suffolk Councils are committed to ensuring that suppliers adhere to the highest standards of ethics.
Are there any equality implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	•
Risk/opportunity assessment: <i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>			
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)

Legal risk of noncompliance	Low	Formal approval by Cabinet	Low
Transparency/ reputational risk	Low	Formal approval as above, annual reviews and transparency through website	Low
Ward(s) affected:		All Wards	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		Not applicable	
Documents attached:		Appendix 1: Modern Slavery and Anti- Trafficking Statement	

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation

- 1.1 The Councils recognise the key importance of safeguarding vulnerable individuals/groups and of raising awareness.
- 1.2 The overall aims of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 are to pursue organised criminals and opportunistic individuals behind the modern-day slave trade and to prevent people from engaging in modern slavery crime. Other aims are to protect vulnerable people by raising awareness and protecting them from becoming victims and to be better prepared for when these crimes do take place and reduce the harm they cause.
- 1.3 Modern Slavery is estimated to be one of the world's most profitable criminal activities. A 2014 assessment, conducted by the Home Office, estimated that there were between 10,000 and 13,000 victims in the UK. Sexual exploitation is the most common form of modern slavery currently reported by potential victims in the UK, followed by labour exploitation, forced criminal exploitation and domestic servitude.
- 1.4 Section 54 of the Act requires the Councils to consider Modern Slavery as part of its procurement strategy, ensuring that contractors and third parties have policies in place and adhere to the law and their responsibilities. West Suffolk Councils are committed to ensuring that suppliers adhere to the highest standards of ethics.
- 1.5 Since 1 October 2015, commercial organisations that carry on a business or part of business in the UK, supply goods or services and have an annual turnover of £36 million or more have been required under Section 54 of the Act to prepare a slavery and human trafficking statement as defined by section 54 of the Act. The organisation requires in scope suppliers tendering for Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) contracts to comply with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, as a mandatory selection criteria.
- 1.6 In terms of best practice and with reference to Section 54 of the Act the Councils will publish a statement of the steps it has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains, or in any part of its business.