

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
11 JUNE 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities	
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MODERN SLAVERY ACT

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Rob Hill, Assistant Director - Community Safety (Peterborough and Cambridgeshire)	Deadline date : N/A
<p>Cabinet is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the draft 2017/18 Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement for signature and publication; and 2. Approve the draft Modern Slavery Policy for implementation. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet as recommended by CMT on 23 May 2018.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to consider and approve the draft 2017/18 Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement in order to meet the Council's statutory obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 ("MSA"). Cabinet is also asked to approve the draft Modern Day Slavery Policy which sets out the Council's commitments and incorporates a procedure which must be followed in any circumstance where anyone working on behalf of the Council identifies a relevant concern.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.4, 'To promote the Council's corporate and key strategies and Peterborough's Community Strategy and approve strategies and cross-cutting programmes not included within the Council's major policy and budget framework.'

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	N/A
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4. OVERVIEW

Background

- 4.1 As in previous years and since the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the Council is required to prepare and publish a '*Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement*' as soon as reasonably practicable at the end of each financial year. The proposed draft Statement will meet that requirement and sets out the steps that the Council has and proposes to take in ensuring compliance in tackling MDS in its supply chains and the wider community.

Statement

- 4.2 The actions identified in the draft Statement demonstrate, as in previous years, the Council's ongoing commitment to taking a robust approach in the prevention of slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and supply chains.
- 4.3 During the last financial year, the following actions were taken:
- A referral Process has been identified to ensure our staff follow an agreed process to identify and report MDS concerns;
 - MDS Champions have been identified from services across the Council and have been provided with appropriate training. An online package has been made available for all staff. The Champions will play a fundamental role in supporting our workforce through the referral process and coordinating our response
 - An MDS lead has been identified, and is vice chair of the County MDS board (Asst Director Community Safety) This provides join up with wider partnership activity
 - Further work is underway to create a shared County / Peterborough policy and ensure we are working to the same standards across both organisations.

Continued Commitment

- 4.4 The 2018/19 Statement sets out the further steps that will be taken in the current financial year to meet the Council's ongoing commitment in tackling modern slavery to include the implementation of a training module across the workforce which, alongside the publication of the Policy is designed to raise awareness and signpost the procedure to follow where issues of concern are identified.

Policy

- 4.5 Fundamental to the identification and combat of MDS is the ability to recognise a potential issue. Consequently, a Policy has now been developed in order to raise staff awareness and provide a means through which concerns can be reported and managed with appropriate partner organisations. Once approved the Policy will be published on a dedicated Insite webpage with a corresponding campaign via the usual staff communication channels to highlight its location and the key messages.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The draft Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement fulfils the council's statutory obligations under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and it is therefore recommended to Cabinet for approval.

- 5.2 The draft Policy builds on the Council's continued commitment to tackling MDS by raising awareness amongst staff and providing a means through which concerns can be reported. Publication of the Policy will run alongside a training module for appropriate frontline staff.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 Not to approve the draft Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement. This option is not recommended as the Council will not be able to meet its statutory requirements.
- 6.2 Not to publish a Policy. Whilst there is no legal requirement for the Council to have a Policy, it is considered beneficial to ensure that staff and partners are aware of the potential issue and have a means through which to report their concerns.

7 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The draft Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement aims to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

8 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 8.1 None.

9 APPENDICES

- 9.1 Appendix 1 Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2016/17.
- 9.2 Appendix 2 Draft Modern Day Slavery Policy.

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