

STOCKPORT COUNCIL MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT 2019/20**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive****1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 This report provides background information in relation to the development of the Council's first Modern Slavery Statement (see Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The Council's first Modern Slavery Statement sets out what the Council is currently doing to ensure that its business and supply chains are not linked to modern slavery, and additional action that it will take in relation to this during 2019/20.
- 1.3 Following consideration by the Corporate, Resource Management & Governance Scrutiny Committee, the Modern Slavery Statement will go forward to Cabinet for formal approval on 18th December.

2. Modern Slavery Statements

- 2.1 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 introduced the concept of the Modern Slavery Statement. Section 54 of the Act requires commercial organisations with an annual turnover of £36m or more to produce and review annual Modern Slavery Statements and to review them annually to ensure that they remain current.
- 2.2 These Statements should set out the steps these organisations are taking, or plan to take, to ensure that their business and supply chains do not have links to modern slavery.
- 2.3 Councils and other public sector organisations are not currently required to produce such statements.

3. Council Motion on Modern Slavery

- 3.1 A motion setting out the Council's abhorrence regarding the practice of modern slavery was put before the Council Meeting on 13th September 2018. It was proposed by Councillor David Meller and seconded by Councillor Elise Wilson. The motion was carried, receiving cross-party support.
- 3.2 The motion included commitments that the Council would resolve to:
 - Instruct and work with the relevant Officers to produce a Stockport Council Modern Slavery Statement, which adopts and incorporates principles set out in the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery, which go beyond the provisions of existing LGA guidelines on Modern Slavery, in order to ensure our procurement practices do not support slavery.
 - Review this Stockport Modern Slavery Statement annually to ensure currency.

4. The Co-operative Party Charter

- 4.1 The motion commits the Council to producing a Modern Slavery Statement that adopts the principles set out in the Co-operative Party's Charter on Modern Slavery. For information, a copy of the Charter can be accessed here <https://party.coop/local/councillors/modern-slavery-charter/#>
- 4.2 On 21st September 2018, the Council's Chief Executive and Councillors who proposed and seconded the motion signed the Council's own Charter on modern slavery, which reflects the principles in the Co-operative Party Charter.
- 4.3 The current or proposed activity set out in the Modern Slavery Statement meets the requirements of the Co-operative Party Charter (see Appendix 2 for details of this). It should be noted that STAR Procurement have a significant role to play in this and much of this planned activity will be delivered through STAR.

5. Development of the Draft Stockport Council Modern Slavery Statement

- 5.1 The Modern Slavery Statement has been developed in collaboration with a range of services and officers across the Council. STAR Procurement are significant partners in ensuring the Charter's principles are upheld and we have worked closely with them to produce this Statement. STAR had already identified current activity relating to the Charter's commitments, as well additional activity it plans to undertake and this is reflected in the Statement.
- 5.2 The Statement has also been produced through engagement with and contributions from staff across a range of Council services including Safeguarding, Finance, People & Organisational Development, Marketing & Communications and also with officers in Policy, Performance & Reform and Growth in terms of alignment with developments around strategic commissioning and social value in procurement.
- 5.3 In developing this first Modern Slavery Statement, other local authority statements were reviewed. Whilst local authorities are not currently required to produce Modern Slavery Statements, statements from 24 other councils were obtained and examined. An organisation called Hope for Justice¹ were also consulted for advice on content of Modern Slavery Statements.

6. Recommendations

The Cabinet will be asked to:

- Agree that a first annual Stockport Council Modern Slavery Statement be adopted for 2019/20.

CRMG are asked to consider and comment on the Statement.

Further Information:

Contact officers for accessing background papers and discussing the report;

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¹ Hope for Justice is a global non-profit organisation which aims to end human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Its UK base is in Manchester.