

STOCKPORT COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET– SUMMARY SHEET

Subject: Stockport Council Modern Slavery Statement 2019/20

Report to Cabinet

Date: 18 December 2018

Report of: Cabinet Member for Reform and Governance

Key Decision: N

Forward Plan ☒ General Exception ☐ Special Urgency ☐ (Mark with a Y if applicable)

Summary:

- This report seeks Cabinet's approval to adopt a Stockport Council Modern Slavery Statement for 2019/20 and to review that statement annually thereafter.
- The Council's first Modern Slavery Statement, a draft of which is included in Appendix 1, sets out what the Council is currently doing to ensure that its business and supply chains are not linked to modern slavery, and additional actions that it will take in relation to this during 2019/20. Subsequent annual iterations of the Statement will review progress with actions set out for the previous year.
- The report describes the concept of the modern slavery statement and the legislation that underpins it. National and local policy drivers are also summarised, as is the process of developing the draft Stockport Council Statement.

Comments/Views of the Cabinet Member:

The Modern Slavery Statement included with this report was part of the resolution in the motion passed by full council on 13th September and the "Modern Slavery Charter" which was subsequently launched. The Statement is presented to Cabinet following its consideration by Corporate, Resource Management & Governance Scrutiny Committee on December 4th. Having this statement, and embedding it within our policies, will be a step forward for us in supporting efforts to tackle modern slavery.

Recommendation(s) of Cabinet Member:

The Cabinet is asked to agree that a first annual Stockport Council Modern Slavery Statement be adopted for 2019/20.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee (if decision called in):
Corporate, Resource Management & Governance

Background Papers (if report for publication):

Contact persons for accessing background papers and discussing the report

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'Urgent Business':

☒ / No (Please circle)

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.

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 Modern Slavery Statements and to review them annually to ensure that they remain current.
- 2.2 These Statements should set out the steps such 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 of 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 has 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 is a significant partner in ensuring the Charter's principles are upheld and it was involved throughout the process of developing 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 shaped by 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 was also consulted for advice on content of Modern Slavery Statements.

6. Recommendations

The Cabinet is asked to agree that a first annual Stockport Council Modern Slavery Statement be adopted for 2019/20.

Further Information:

Contact officers for accessing background papers and discussing the report;

Alan Lawson, Strategy and Performance Manager (alan.lawson@stockport.gov.uk; 474 5397).

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.