

**STOCKPORT COUNCIL MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT 2024/25:
REVIEW AND REFRESH**

Report of the Executive Director for Corporate and Support Services

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Following the passing of a council motion, with cross-party support, in September 2018 condemning the practice of modern slavery, the council signed a Modern Slavery Charter.
- 1.2 One of the charter's commitments was to publish a Modern Slavery Statement that sets out actions the council has already taken to ensure its supply chains are not linked to modern slavery, as well as further action it intends to take.
- 1.3 The charter also committed the council to reviewing the Modern Slavery Statement annually.
- 1.4 Stockport Council's first Modern Slavery Statement was published in April 2019. It included a range of actions for both Stockport Council and our procurement partner, STAR Procurement.
- 1.5 The fourth (2023/24) iteration of the Modern Slavery Statement was reviewed in late summer 2024. This report therefore briefly summarises the review process and presents the fifth iteration (2024/25) of the Stockport Council Modern Slavery Statement, to cover the period up to 30th September 2025, and seeks committee's approval to adopt that refreshed statement.

2. REVIEW PROCESS

- 2.1 The review took the form of a consultation with action owners (in the council and STAR Procurement) on progress with implementing the actions in the 2023/24 iteration of the statement and on any additional activity required.
- 2.2 The findings of the review were used to produce an updated version of the statement. As well as a summary of progress with actions in the 2023/24 Statement, it includes a new set of actions to be implemented by 30th September 2025.
- 2.3 The council's Internal Audit team undertook a Modern Slavery Internal Audit Review, an exercise undertaken every 3-4 years (the one previous review was undertaken in 2020). This has also informed the draft statement and resulted in several new actions for 2024/25 being added.

3. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

There are no significant financial considerations or risks to the council adopting the Modern Slavery Statement. Indeed, adoption of the statement should reduce the risk of any of the council's supply chains having any links to modern slavery.

4. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no significant legal considerations associated with adopting the Modern Slavery Statement. Equally, there are no significant legal considerations to **not** adopting the statement, as local authorities are not **currently** required to produce a Modern Slavery Statement. The Government however has signalled an intention to review relevant legislation, which may lead to a future requirement for councils to produce Modern Slavery Statements.

5. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

There are no HR implications associated with adopting the Modern Slavery Statement.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

There are no equalities implications associated with adopting the Modern Slavery Statement.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There are no environmental implications associated with adopting the Modern Slavery Statement.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- Consider the draft updated statement (which accompanies this report), which will run to 30th September 2025.
- Subject to any necessary amendments identified by committee, agree that the statement progresses to Cabinet for approval and adoption.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Alan Lawson by email on alan.lawson@stockport.gov.uk.