

Title of meeting:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	12 th March 2019
Subject:	Modern Slavery Transparency Statement
Report by:	Director of Human Resources, Legal and Performance
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide context to the council's Modern Slavery Transparency Statement and seek approval to publish the statement on the council's website (appendix 1)

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet approves

- i) The Modern Slavery Transparency Statement for publication on the council's website (see Appendix 1) and**
- ii) The programme of work set out in item 13 of the statement**
- iii) That Full Council is asked to note the recommendations for information only**

3. Background

3.1 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 (MSA 2015) applies to England and Wales and includes the offences of human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. The Act consolidated and simplified existing offences and establishes a legal duty under Section 52 for specified public authorities to notify the Home Office where there is reasonable grounds to believe a person may be a victim of modern slavery.

3.2 Section 54 of the MSA 2015 requires commercial organisations carrying out business in the UK, with a turnover of at least £36 million, to prepare and publish a slavery and human trafficking statement for each and every financial year.

3.3 The Local Government Association (LGA) describes the publication of transparency statement for local authorities as voluntary. This is because the duty to publish a transparency statement relates to commercial organisations (as opposed to public sector

organisations) with an annual turnover of more than £36m. The Act is however, subject to an independent review, which is underway, and the interim report has recommended that all public sector organisations with a surplus turnover of £36m should be included in the Act.

3.4 The LGA has published helpful guidance in relation to preparing transparency statements which has been used to develop the draft statement.

3.5 Modern slavery cannot be addressed by one organisation alone. Portsmouth is an active member of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Modern Slavery Partnership. The Modern Slavery Partnership Strategy is attached at appendix 2.

3.6 It is helpful for members to note that in relation to the trafficking of children, the council has developed a good working relationship with the Immigration Enforcement Team, UK Border Force and the Police through quarterly meetings to share intelligence and protect vulnerable children. Safeguarding procedures are implemented when required as referenced in the statement.

4. Development of response

4.1 It is recommended that a 'task and finish' group is established to take forward an improvement programme that will embed appropriate levels of awareness, response and enforcement across the relevant council directorates.

4.2 The programme of work will include:

- Developing corporate performance indicators associated with the Council's *Plan on a Page*
- Identification and referral of victims and supporting them e.g. through safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs and through housing/homelessness services
- Undertaking service delivery and ensuring that all supply chains the council procures services from are free from modern slavery, including undertaking risk assessments and audits
- Developing Human resources, training and organisational development policies
- Community safety responses and disruption activities, working alongside partner agencies such as the police

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 This *Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement* sets out the Council's current position and future plans to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to its business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business and/or in its supply chains.

4.2 The attached statement relates to activities during the financial year April 2018 to March 2019. For the avoidance of doubt, the statement also applies to Portsmouth International Port. MMD are likely to prepare a separate statement.

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

A preliminary EIA has been completed and is attached.

6. Legal implications

The report confirms the basis upon which an organisation is required to prepare and publish its statement relevant to the Modern Slavery Act.

7. Director of Finance's comments

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations. If there are any actions arising from the programme of work that require additional resource, a further report will be brought to members.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Draft Modern Slavery Transparency Statement**
- Appendix 2 Modern Slavery Partnership Strategy 2017-2020**

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: