

Title of meeting:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	14 th July 2020
Subject:	Modern Slavery Transparency Statement
Report by:	Corporate Strategy - Lisa Wills
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 5.**
- iii) 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 A review of the legislation published in May 2019 recommended that Government should extend section 54 requirements to the public sector and strengthen its public procurement processes. The council published first statement in advance of this recommendation in March 2019. This is the council's second published statement.

3.4 The Local Government Association has published helpful guidance in relation to preparing transparency statements which has been used to develop the draft statement attached. Portsmouth City Council's existing statement is published on the LGA Portal here: <https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/community-safety/modern-slavery/transparency-statements>. Not all local authorities have published a statement.

4. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Modern Slavery Partnership

4.1 The council believes that tackling modern slavery and trafficking cannot be addressed by one organisation alone. Portsmouth is therefore an active member of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Modern Slavery Partnership. The Partnership has undergone a restructure over the past 18 months and senior managers responsible for adult and children's safeguarding are represented on the core group. Other Council staff play an active role in supporting the relevant sub-groups and have been involved in the development of the most recent strategic plan (2020-23) available here: [https://www.modernslaverypartnership.org.uk/files/2115/9169/7447/Hamp MSP Strategy.pdf](https://www.modernslaverypartnership.org.uk/files/2115/9169/7447/Hamp_MSP_Strategy.pdf)

4.2 The partnership has also developed a clear referral pathway for victims of modern slavery (appendix 2). 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 for children and adults are implemented when required as referenced in the statement.

4.3 Staff from Learning and Development are leading the work to develop a consistent e-learning package across the county as part of the training sub-group.

4.4 The partnership co-ordinator has provided helpful infographics from the national Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline (see Executive Summary of data 2017-2019 at appendix 3). More detailed information for Portsmouth has been requested from Police colleagues; this will provide a better understanding of the issues locally and enable more targeted action.

5. Programme of continuous improvement

5.1 A local Modern Slavery Steering group has been established to take forward the improvement programme set out in the statement. This will be reviewed annually alongside the statement itself ensuring appropriate levels of awareness, response and enforcement across the relevant council directorates.

5.2 The programme of work will include:

- Finalising corporate performance indicators as part of a new corporate health monitoring process.
- Working in active partnership with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Modern Slavery Partnership to support a consistent approach and response to modern slavery and trafficking

- Raising awareness of modern slavery by developing improved internal and external communications
- Extending the current and developing training to a wider staff group and developing universal multi-agency safeguarding training as mandatory for all council staff.
- Focus on ensuring that all supply chains are free from modern slavery, including undertaking local risk assessments and audits.
- Deliver community safety responses and disruption activities, working alongside partner agencies such as the police, fire and health services.

6. Reasons for recommendations

6.1 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 there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business and/or in its supply chains.

6.2 The statement relates to activities during the financial year April 2019 to March 2020 and sets out a programme of work to be completed by the end of March 2021. For the avoidance of doubt, the statement also applies to Portsmouth International Port. Portico (previously known as MMD) are likely to prepare a separate statement.

7. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

A preliminary EIA has been completed and is attached.

8. 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.

9. Director of Finance's comments

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations. If there are 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 Portsmouth City Council Draft Modern Slavery Transparency Statement 2019/20

Appendix 2 Adult victim referral pathway - June 2020

Appendix 3 Data Infographic - Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline 2017-19

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
Local Government Association - Tackling Modern Slavery - A council guide	LGA website https://www.local.gov.uk/modern-slavery-council-guide
Councillor Guide to Tackling Modern Slavery	LGA website https://www.local.gov.uk/councillor-guide-tackling-modern-slavery

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

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 Signed by: