

Title of meeting:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	21 st June 2022
Subject:	Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking 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, progress against the improvement plan, and to seek approval to publish the statement on the council's website (appendix 1).

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet approves

- i) The Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the signature of the Leader and publication on the council's website (see appendix 1) and**
- ii) The programme of work set out in item 10 of this report.**
- iii) Full Council is asked to note the decision of the cabinet to approve and publish the statement.**

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.

3.4 A new Modern Slavery Bill was announced in the Queen's speech.

4. Alignment with the City Vision

The City Vision sets out where Portsmouth wants to be by 2040. The Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement underpins two key ambitions - to be a healthy happy city and a city with a thriving economy. The programme of work set out below will help the council move towards these ambitions.

5. Social Value and Procurement

5.1 There are clear links between preventing modern slavery and the Council's Social Value Strategy. The new strategy and policy will help to identify modern slavery in local government supply chains, as well as improving opportunities for small businesses, and improved employment options for ex-offenders and care leavers, value for money, and social enterprise.

5.2 Plans to pilot the integration of social value in procurement and commissioning processes include making sure any risks associated with modern slavery are identified and mitigated.

5.3 The first supply chain audit was carried out with the support of housing repairs contractors. The audit found a reasonable level of assurance meaning risks were identified but overall, the activities do not pose significant risk to the authority. The second audit is planned for 2023.

6. Portsmouth International Port (PIP)

6.1 The multi-agency Solent Portal Maritime Security Group includes representatives from the Portsmouth International Port, Border Force, MOD, ferry operators, DFT and police. The group meets regularly to discuss security incidents, issues, and threat levels, including human trafficking. Modern Slavery is now a standing agenda item and links with the Boarder force are being developed with Adult Social Care.

6.2 Portico (previously MMD) publish a separate statement on their website.

7. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Modern Slavery Partnership

7.1 Portsmouth is an active member of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Modern Slavery Partnership. Senior managers responsible for adult and children's safeguarding are represented on the core group and 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)

7.2 The staff restructure of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in July this year is likely to result in reduced focus and support to local groups.

7.3 Referral Pathway for victims - this is available on both children and adult safeguarding websites and as a link on the PCC website in the statement itself. Discussions with the Emergency Planning team have not progressed this year in relation to police operations. The existing protocol remains in place.

7.4 The partnership has also developed a one-minute guide to modern slavery (appendix 2).

7.5 Data analysis - the Hampshire and IOW partnership co-ordinator provides some helpful police data; reports to the national referral mechanism have reduced slightly over the past 12 months with 52 referrals between Jan-March 2022 (compared with 61 in the previous year). National statistics are set out in the Modern Slavery Helpline's Annual Assessment in appendix 3. Calls to the helpline have quickly returned to pre-pandemic levels and continue to increase.

8. Enforcement

8.1 A 'Problem Profile' for Portsmouth has been produced by police colleagues. To help build a more detailed picture of local issues, council services and other partners will provide further intelligence and information will be added.

8.2 Modern Slavery is under-reported but despite low numbers of reports in the city multi-agency enforcement activity based on an augmented problem profile is planned for 2023.

9. Training

9.1 In the past 12 months¹ 540 staff attended children's safeguarding courses that include modern slavery and exploitation, and 592 attended adult safeguarding courses. In addition to social care staff these totals include 451 staff from other areas of the council: housing officers, finance staff and building maintenance staff.

9.2 A video-based e-learning package on Modern Slavery, and a Skills Booster course are available to PCC staff and councillors. In the past 12 months, 168 staff took these courses 103 of whom were not social care employees.

9.3 Training uptake is monitored by the Governance and Audit Committee and will include the number of members undertaking the specially adapted e-learning course.

10. Programme of continuous improvement

10.1 Portsmouth's Modern Slavery Steering group, chaired by the Director of Corporate Services, will take forward the improvement programme set out in the statement (item 10). This will be reviewed six monthly alongside the annual review of the statement to ensure appropriate levels of awareness, response and enforcement across the relevant council directorates.

¹ April 2021-March 2022

The programme of work, under the following headings will be implemented during 2022/23:

- I. **Strategic Leadership** - Quarterly reporting on agreed measures to the Governance and Audit Committee as part of corporate health monitoring process. Regularly Modern Slavery working group meetings, chaired by the Director of Corporate Services to monitor improvement plan.
- II. **Working with partners** - continue to work in active partnership with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Modern Slavery Partnership to support a consistent approach across the county. Support work to improve local data analysis and emergency planning procedures.
- III. **Raising awareness** - continue to raise awareness of modern slavery by supporting Hampshire-wide communication campaign to compliment annual national Anti-Slavery activity in October and expanding training across the organization.
- IV. **Develop and expand training** - develop universal awareness raising by explaining the signs and impact of early childhood trauma and exploitation of children, homeless people and vulnerable adults. Continue to increase the number of non-social care staff and elected councillors accessing e-learning and/or face to face training on modern slavery.
- V. **Procurement and supply chains** - strengthen wording of pre-qualifying questionnaire asking for copies of statements from all new suppliers and consider retrospective application to existing high risk areas identified by the [Labour Exploitation - Industry profiles - sectors at risk - GLAA](#). Continue to undertake a minimum of two supply chain audits per year and develop a longer-term audit framework for high-risk contracts. Continue to develop a procurement strategy linked with longer term work on social value.
- VI. **Policies and processes** - review all HR policies associated with identifying and combatting modern slavery,
- VII. **Enforcement and disruption** - continue to deliver community safety responses and disruption activities, improve local data gathering, working alongside partner agencies such as the police, fire and health services to plan multi-agency operations.

9. Reasons for recommendations

9.1 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 puts in place steps to ensure there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business and/or in its supply chains, and also to protect and support victims.

9.2 It is important to make and sustain collaborative links with delivering the City Vision and the Social Value Strategy.

9.3 PCC Directors reviewed and approved the statement and programme of work on 9th May 2022. The Director of Corporate Services is the executive lead for the city.

9.4 The statement sets out an improvement plan to be completed by the end of March 2023. For the avoidance of doubt, the statement also applies to Portsmouth International Port. Portico (previously known as MMD) will prepare a separate statement.

10. Integrated impact assessment (IIA)

An IIA has been completed and is attached at appendix 4.

11. Legal implications

11.1 The report sets out the basis upon which a public sector organisation is required to prepare and publish an annual statement relevant to the statutory requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

11.2 The Queen's speech announced the government's intention to produce a new Modern Slavery Bill this year². No further details are available regarding the legislative timetable. A new modern slavery strategy is also expected in the coming months.

12. Director of Finance's comments

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations and many helpful synergies. 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:
Paddy May
Corporate Strategy Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Portsmouth City Council Draft Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2022/23

Appendix 2 One Minute Guide to Modern Slavery

Appendix 3 Data Infographic - Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline

Appendix 4 Integrated impact assessment

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:

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-the-modern-slavery-act-final-report/independent-review-of-the-modern-slavery-act-final-report-accessible-version>

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 Local Government Association guidance re preparing transparency statements.	https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/community-safety/modern-slavery/transparency-statements .

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

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Signed by: