

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

Report of: Phil Adams, Executive People & Public Protection Manager

To: Full Council – 27 July 2017

(Author: Vicki Lowry, HR Manager, Breckland

Subject: Modern Slavery Statement

Purpose: To agree the Council's Modern Slavery Statement which will then be published on the Council's website.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) That the Modern Slavery Statement be approved

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 places an obligation upon businesses with a total turnover in excess of £36 million. Once a business reaches this threshold, the obligation is to prepare a "slavery and human trafficking statement" which is either:

- 'A statement detailing the steps you have taken to ensure slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of your supply chains, or part of your business; or
- A statement that you have taken no such steps (a "No Steps Statement").'

1.2 There is no penalty for those businesses that fail to publish a statement, and the duties are only enforceable (currently) if the Secretary of State brings civil proceedings for a High Court Injunction thereby forcing a business to produce a statement. In which case, there is still the option to produce a "No Steps Statement".

2.0 OPTIONS

2.1 To approve the attached Statement showing steps taken to ensure human trafficking is not taking place and publish on the Council website

2.2 Do nothing and risk Civil Proceedings.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 A Statement will reiterate the Council's commitment to understanding the modern slavery risk and to show how the Council is ensuring there is no modern slavery within the Council and supply chains.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Constitution & Legal**

4.1.2 The requirement to publish a Modern Slavery Statement is a statutory requirement and as such the Council is required to comply.

4.2 **Contracts**

4.2.1 The Modern Slavery Statement details the steps the Council has taken to ensure slavery or human trafficking is not taking place in any part of our organisation and also in our supply chains which includes Agencies and Contractors.

4.3 **Corporate Priorities**

4.3.1 The Modern Slavery Statement supports the following corporate priorities:

- To develop safer, stronger, healthier and more independent communities whilst protecting the most vulnerable

4.4 **Crime and Disorder**

4.4.1 The Modern Slavery Statement details the steps the Council has taken to ensure slavery or human trafficking is not taking place

4.5 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

4.5.1 The Modern Slavery Statement applies to everyone, regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, sexual orientation, religion or belief, and marriage or civil partnership.

4.6 **Financial**

4.6.1 Financial implications have been considered as part of this report, however it is not thought to have any implications.

4.7 **Reputation**

4.7.1 The Modern Slavery Statement details the steps the Council has taken to ensure slavery or human trafficking is not taking place in any part of our organisation and also in our supply chains which includes Agencies and Contractors.

5.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

5.1 All wards affected

6.0 **ACRONYMS**

6.1 No acronyms have been used.

Background papers:-

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery-bill>

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Key Decision:

No

Exempt Decision:

No

This report refers to a Discretionary Service

Appendices attached to this report: Appendix A (Modern Slavery Statement)