

CABINET

13 September 2021

MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) approves the appended Modern Slavery Statement; and**
 - (2) agrees that a signed copy is displayed on the Council's website and the Home Office Modern Slavery Statement Registry.**
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Summary

The statement for 2020/21, at Appendix 1, sets out what steps the Council has taken, and will be taking, to ensure that modern slavery is not occurring within the Council and in our supply chains. It also addresses the partnership role that the Council has within the Borough.

Eastleigh Borough Council is committed to eradicating modern slavery and aims to eliminate the impact on people in the Borough.

Pursuant to Section 54, Part 6 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 Eastleigh Borough Council is producing a slavery and human trafficking statement each financial year.

Statutory Powers

- Modern Slavery Act 2015

Strategic Implications

1. The Modern Slavery Statement supports the Council's Corporate Plan objective of Prosperous Place developing a strong and sustainable economy that supports improved standards of living for residents; promoting thriving and healthy communities; and maintaining an attractive and sustainable environment that residents' value.

Introduction

2. The Council must publish an annual statement setting out the steps they take to prevent modern slavery in their business and supply chains. This is a requirement under Section 54 (Transparency in Supply Chains) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Statutory guidance states that publication should be done within 6 months of the Council's financial year-end.
3. Council approved the Modern Slavery Statement for the 2019/20 financial year on 23 July 2020. This report and the amended statement updates Councillors on the actions taken and shows a number of changes to reflect good practice and Government recommendations.
4. The Modern Slavery Statement must be approved by the highest decision making body of the relevant entity and signed and dated by the appropriate persons (i.e. in the case of the Council the Leader and the Chief Executive) who should be present at the meeting that approves the statement.
5. The Home Office launched the government modern slavery statement registry to make it easier for people to find modern slavery statements. As well as publishing the Council's statement on its website, this statement should be added to the registry to share the steps the Council is taking to prevent modern slavery in its supply chains.

2020/21 Statement

6. The statement for 2020/21, Appendix 1, sets out what steps the Council has taken, and will be taking, to ensure that modern slavery is not occurring within the Council and inside our supply chains. It also addresses the partnership role that the Council has within the Borough.
7. The Council's commitment to endeavouring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of our business including our supply chains is restated.
8. An E-Learning package has been placed on the training portal and it is now a requirement that all staff view and complete the course which provides details of how modern slavery can be identified and details the action to take should it be identified.
9. Appropriate changes were made during 2019/20 to contract terms and conditions to seek to prevent the use of modern slavery in the Councils supply chains.

10. The Statement was reviewed by and is endorsed by the Procurement Executive Group on 13 July 2021.

Financial Implications

11. There are no direct financial implications relating to this report, however it is possible that the Council could face punitive measures should it fail to comply with legislation.

Risk Assessment

12. There are no direct risks associated with this report. However, there can be clear reputational risks if organisations knowingly or through inadequate checking fail to look for Modern Slavery in their supply chains.

Equality and Diversity Implications

13. A Modern Slavery Statement can assist in eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and promote the fostering of good relations between different people.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

14. There are no direct climate change and environmental implications from this report.

Conclusion

15. The proposed Modern Slavery Statement for 2020/21 is set out in appendix 1. Cabinet is asked to approve the statement ahead of submission to the Home Office.

JOANNE CASSAR
EXECUTIVE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

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Appendices Attached: 1

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

None.

This report was originally published on 14 July 2021 with the Agenda for Council for 22 July 2021 and remains in the public domain.

Due to the increase locally in positive coronavirus cases, the Mayor, in consultation with the Leader, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer agreed to cancel this in person meeting to protect Councillors and Staff. The next meeting of Council is 11 November 2021.

The Annual Modern Slavery Statement is published voluntarily by the Council to mirror the requirements under Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act. The statement is required to be approved and published by 30 September 2021. This approval will now be sought from Cabinet.