

# COUNCIL

27 NOVEMBER 2023

## MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT 2022/23

Report of the Service Director – Governance and Support  
(Monitoring Officer)

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### Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

- (1) approve the appended Modern Slavery Statement for 2022/23; and
  - (2) agree that a signed copy is displayed on the Council's website and Home Office Modern Slavery Statement Registry.
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### Summary

The statement for 2022/23 (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.

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 2023-26 through demonstrating the commitment to improve the quality of life for local residents.

## **Introduction**

2. The requirement, under Section 54 (Transparency in Supply Chains) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, to publish an annual Modern Slavery Statement applies to certain commercial organisations/corporate bodies/partnerships, carrying out business in the United Kingdom, with annual turnover over £36m. An annual statement is published to state what efforts are being taken to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking in their business and supply chains. Outside of this, suppliers can voluntarily publish a statement. Whilst the Council is not legally obliged to publish a statement, it is recognised that a periodic review of processes and progress is valuable, and that the voluntary publication of a statement provides transparency.
3. This report provides the statement for the financial year 2022/23.
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.

## **2022/23 Statement**

6. The statement for 2022/23 (appendix one), 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.

## **Financial Implications**

8. There are no direct financial implications relating to this report.

## **Risk Assessment**

9. 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**

10. 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**

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

## **Conclusion**

12. The proposed Modern Slavery Statements for 2022/23 is set out in appendix One. Council is asked to approve the statement ahead of submission to the Home Office.

JOANNE CASSAR

SERVICE DIRECTOR – GOVERNANCE ASUPPORT (MONITORING OFFICER)

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Appendices Attached: one

## **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.

[Modern Slavery: Statutory Guidance for England and Wales \(under section 49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015\) and non-statutory guidance for Scotland and Northern Ireland](#)