

For publication

Modern Slavery Statement and Charter (J000)

Meeting:	Council
Date:	12 December, 2018
Cabinet portfolio:	Deputy Leader
Report by:	Assistant Director – Policy and Communications

1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update on the approval of the council's modern slavery statement for 2019/20 and to consider signing up to the Co-operative Party Charter against modern slavery.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council sign up to the Co-operative Party Charter against Modern Slavery and work towards its implementation.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 consolidates various offences relating to human trafficking and slavery. In broad terms:
- 'slavery' is where ownership is exercised over a person
 - 'servitude' involves coercion to oblige a person to provide services

- 'forced and compulsory labour' is where a person works or provides services on a non-voluntary basis under the threat of a penalty
 - 'human trafficking' involves arranging or facilitating the travel of a person with a view to exploiting them
- 3.2 Section 52 of the Act imposes a duty on public authorities, including district councils, to notify the Secretary of State (via the National Crime Agency) of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking.
- 3.3 Section 54 of the Act imposes a legal duty on organisations, which supply goods and/or services from or to the UK and have a global turnover above £36 million, to publish a slavery and human trafficking statement each financial year. On the introduction of the act it was unclear if local authorities and other public sector bodies were covered by the requirement. Recent additional guidance clarified that public sector bodies do not currently need to comply with this duty.
- 3.4 Chesterfield Borough Council recognises the huge impact that this crime has on vulnerable people and our communities and we are committed to working with partner agencies to play our part in eradicating modern slavery. To demonstrate our commitment and highlight how we can help prevent exploitation, Chesterfield Borough Council like many local authorities including Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council volunteered to develop and implement modern statements from 2018/19 onwards.
- 3.5 The modern slavery statement for 2019/20 is attached at appendix 1. The statement was approved at the Cabinet meeting on 4 December, 2018 and includes:
- Modern slavery act requirements
 - The standards we will meet and expect others we do business with to meet

- Supply chains
- How modern slavery links into our policies and plans
- Training and awareness raising
- Partnership working

3.6 The statement will be reviewed annually and published on the council's website.

4.0 **The Modern Slavery Charter**

4.1 The Co-operative Party has launched a Charter against modern slavery, which recognises the important role that local authorities in the UK can play in reducing modern slavery, in particular through its procurement activity and supply chains. Over forty local authorities have already signed the charter and are working towards implementation.

4.2 While our modern slavery statement shows the progress we have been making in seeking to prevent and reduce the impact of modern slavery there is still more that we could do. The Charter identifies ten actions which local authorities can take to tackle modern slavery. Appendix 2 shows the Charter actions, our current position and how we can move towards full implementation.

4.3 This report was considered by Cabinet on 4 December, 2018, where it was resolved to recommend to Council the signing of the Modern Slavery Charter. The Charter will be used as an improvement tool to strengthen our policies, procedures and practices to maximise our impact particularly in the prevention of modern slavery.

5.0 **Equalities**

5.1 Equality analysis of our approach to reducing modern slavery and its impacts has been considered and no negative impacts for protected characteristics identified. These arrangements make significant positive contributions to all groups but in particular younger people, people with disabilities and migrants who are disproportionately affected by modern slavery.

6.0 **Resources**

6.1 Our response to modern slavery is built into our core business so additional resource is not required. Signing up to the Charter involves additional safeguards to be put in place around procurement but this will be considered as part of the current review of procurement.

7.0 **Recommendations**

7.1 That the Council sign up to the Co-operative Party Charter against Modern Slavery and work towards its implementation.

8.0 **Reason for recommendations**

8.1 To demonstrate and strengthen our commitment to prevent and reduce the impact of modern slavery.

Decision information

Key decision number	839
Wards affected	ALL

Document information

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Appendices to the report	
Appendix 1	Modern Slavery Statement
Appendix 2	Modern Slavery Charter