

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 15 th December 2020
Report Subject	Annual Review of the Modern Slavery Statement
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
Report Author	Chief Officer (Governance)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council spends approximately £197m each year purchasing good, services and works. The Council also seeks to ensure that its spend is with organisations that share similar ethical values and, in particular, with organisations that do not seek to exploit or impose unfair conditions on their workers. The Council's commitment and activity to that end are set out in its Modern Slavery Statement.

The Council has made some progress in implementing the actions promised in last year's statement and has now established the key processes such contractual and procurement clauses prohibiting unethical employment practices within the supply chain. Inevitably due to demands on officer time it has not been possible to carry out all the training and awareness raising that was anticipated and this will therefore form the focus for activity over the coming 12 months.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Modern Slavery Statement is approved and published.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT
1.01	Every organisation with an annual turnover of over £36m must publish an annual statement on how it will seek to tackle modern slavery. Having established ethical working practices within its own structures, the focus for the Council is on eradicating modern slavery within its supply chain and this coincides with its commitments under Welsh Government's Code of Ethical Employment.
1.02	The Council reviewed its Modern Slavery Statement in December 2019 and since then has concluded the actions on creating systems to prevent modern slavery in the supply chain e.g. allowing tenders to be rejected where they offer an abnormally low price that could be achieved through unethical working practices. It has also trained its procurement officers on tackling modern slavery through the supply chain.
1.03	As with other organisations the Council has found it difficult to establish a cost effective and reliable method for assessing the risk posed by potential contractors though good practice is now emerging. Also it has struggled due to time pressure on employees to deliver the desired level of training and awareness raising. These actions therefore form the focus for activity in the coming 12 months.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	It is anticipated that the commitments within the Modern Slavery Statement can be achieved within current resource levels.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	Although the risks of modern slavery within the supply chain are deemed to be low, the promised actions in the statement serve to reinforce our values and raise awareness of an important issue. They also contribute to the broader aims of removing inequality.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Human Resources and the Joint Corporate Procurement Unit have contributed to the preparation of the action plan.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Modern Slavery Statement 2020 – 2021.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Gareth Owens, Chief Officer Governance Telephone: 01352 702344 E-mail: gareth.legal@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>Modern Slavery - is defined within the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Act categorises offences of Slavery, Servitude and Forced or Compulsory Labour and Human Trafficking.</p>