

continue to safeguard against Modern Slavery, Trafficking and exploitation and to promote awareness throughout the Council.

- 2.7 The Council's draft Modern Slavery Statement for 2021/22 is attached (see appendix A) for approval to allow it then to be published on our website and also on the Government's central register.
- 2.8 If approved by Cabinet, the statement needs to be signed by The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Shropshire Council's Modern Slavery Statement 2021/22 as set out in Appendix A is approved for publication.
- 3.2 That the Statement is signed by The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council and the statement is published as required.

REPORT

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. By making this anti Modern Slavery statement there is a direct positive impact towards the protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults as well as a person's human rights. Without a statement and further actions we run a greater risk of allowing modern slavery to take place.
- 4.2 Although there are no penalties under the Act for failing to comply with the publication requirement (except that the Secretary of State can apply for an injunction to compel us to comply), a failure by the Council to publish an accurate and robust slavery and human trafficking statement may attract criticism and negative publicity from our key stakeholders and others in the community. In turn, this has the potential to attract negative publicity that affects our brand.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 By making this anti Modern Slavery statement there are no direct financial implications

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1 By making this anti Modern Slavery statement there is expected to be 'no effect' on the following:-

- Energy and fuel consumption
- Renewable energy generation
- Carbon offsetting or mitigation
- Climate change adaptation

7. Background

7.1 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 introduced changes in UK law that focused on increasing transparency in supply chains. Specifically, large businesses are required to disclose the steps they have taken to ensure their business and supply chains are free from modern slavery (that is, slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking). 'Commercial organisations' (body corporates or partnerships carrying on any part of their business in the UK) that supply goods or services and have a minimum turnover of £36 million (including turnover of subsidiaries) are required to produce a slavery and human trafficking statement each financial year. The statement should include the steps taken to ensure modern slavery is not taking place in the organisation's own business and its supply chains (this does not mean the organisation must guarantee the entire supply chain is slavery free).

7.2 The Council voluntarily published a statement adhering to the requirements of the Act for 2020/21 earlier this year see appendix B.

7.3 Whilst previously the publication of a statement by the Council was voluntary the Council is now under a legal obligation to Publish a statement annually under new provisions of the updated Act.

7.4 The statement needs to be approved by Council and signed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council. The statement must be published on our website.

7.5 We therefore have prepared an anti-slavery and human trafficking statement for 2021/2022 ready for publication.

7.6 The Act includes information about what may be included in the statement, such as a statement about our policies in relation to modern slavery, our due diligence processes, and a statement about the parts of our business and supply chains where there is a risk of modern slavery taking place (including the steps we have taken to assess and manage that risk).

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

A. Modern Slavery Statement for Shropshire Council 2020/21

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Lezley Picton

Local Member not applicable

Appendices

A. Modern Slavery Statement for Shropshire Council 2021/22

B. Modern Slavery Statement for Shropshire Council 2020/21