



Committee and Date

West Mercia Energy Joint  
Committee

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Item

9

Public

## ANTI-SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATEMENT 2023/24

**Responsible Officer** Nigel Evans

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### 1. Summary

- 1.1 In accordance with the WME Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy, the Joint Committee are presented with the draft WME Transparency Statement for 2023/24 for approval.

### 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Joint Committee:

- 2.1 approve the draft WME Transparency Statement for 2023/24
- 2.2, delegate authority to the Director to finalise the WME Transparency Statement and publish it in accordance with section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

## REPORT

### 3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 3.2 There are no direct environmental, equalities or climate change consequences arising from this report.

### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## 5. Background

- 5.1 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 is aimed at combating crimes of slavery and human trafficking and recognises that businesses have a role to play in tackling these crimes. Section 54 of the Act requires any commercial organisation with a turnover of over £36m p.a. to publish an annual statement for each financial year to detail what steps the organisation has taken to ensure that human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains or its business (this does not mean the organisation must guarantee the entire supply chain is slavery free); or make a declaration that no such steps have been taken. The aim is to ensure that businesses are transparent about what they are doing to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking.
- 5.2 The WME Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy was approved by the Joint Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and this Policy is published on the WME website.
- 5.3 In accordance with section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, a statement must be published at the end of the relevant financial year and specify the steps taken within the previous financial year to ensure that no slavery or human trafficking is taking place in any part of its business or in its supply chains. Organisations are encouraged to do this within 6 months of the end of the relevant financial year.
- 5.4 The Statement is in draft form as the financial year 2023/24 has not yet ended. No changes are expected to the Statement once the financial year has ended and it is preferable for the Statement to be completed and published prior to the September Joint Committee.
- 5.5 The WME Statement for 2023/24 is attached and the Joint Committee are asked to approve the draft Statement. Once approved the Statement will be published on the WME website.

<p><b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b></p>
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<p>Joint Committee 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy</p>
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<p>Joint Committee 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 - Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2022/23</p>
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<p><b>Member</b></p>
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<p>Councillor G Butler of Shropshire Council (Chair of the Joint Committee)</p>
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<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
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<p>WME Transparency Statement 2023/24</p>
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