

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Governance	Council	17 November 2020

MODERN SLAVERY UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To update members on the actions taken by the council to combat modern slavery.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That members note the report.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	X	A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	X

BACKGROUND

- In November 2018 council approved a notice of motion which stated

That this Council will support and sign the Cooperative Party Charter Against Modern Slavery and it will promote awareness of Modern Day Slavery amongst our residents and work with officers to support survivors, as follows:

"Charter Against Modern Slavery" Chorley Borough Council will:

- Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
- Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
- Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
- Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.

5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually."

5. A requirement of this notice of motion was that there to be an annual report presented detailing the actions taken to combat modern slavery.
6. The council have adopted the Charter Against Modern Slavery. This goes beyond the requirements of guidance and legislation and focusses on Local Government spend on contractors through procured contracts.

ACTIONS TAKEN

7. The three members of the Procurement Team have undertaken and passed Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply ethical procurement training. This is an approved elearning module where competence and understanding is tested through examination on completion.
8. As a result of this training, the procurement teams understanding and competence in relation to combatting modern slavery has been improved.
9. The council have incorporated a Modern Slavery question into the suitability questionnaire for relevant procurements such as the waste contract and leisure contract (contacts which have the potential to have low paid high turn-over staffing). Part of this question includes a requirement for the contractor to confirm compliance with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act.
10. Awareness raising of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy has been undertaken with staff with the policy being "policy of the month" on core brief. We already required contractors to have a compliant whistle-blowing policy.
11. To date, the council have not been required to report any contractors for breaches of the Modern Slavery Act.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

12. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	X	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	X	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

13. There are no risks identified in the report.

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

14. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

15. No comments.

CHRIS MOISTER
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE

Report Author	Ext	Date
Chris Moister	5160	21 October 2020