

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	CHARTER AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY UPDATE		
DATE OF DECISION:	11 FEBRUARY 2020		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTHIER AND SAFER CITY		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
NOT APPLICABLE			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
<p>On 18 December 2018, Cabinet adopted the Southampton City Council’s Charter Against Modern Slavery (“the Charter”). The Charter commits the Council to taking action through procurement and contract management to make its best efforts to ensure that its suppliers are not involved in modern slavery.</p> <p>Authority was delegated to the then Service Director - Digital and Business Operations, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Customer Experience, to develop a plan for implementing the Charter throughout 2019 and to update Cabinet on the progress of implementation after twelve months. Following a structural review this responsibility has now passed to the Executive Director for Finance and Commercialisation.</p> <p>This paper reports on the progress in implementing the ten commitments of the Charter.</p>			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	To note the progress made against each of the ten commitments of the Charter.	
	(ii)	To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Finance and Commercialisation to publish an annual update of the implementation of the Charter on the Southampton City Council website.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	To allow the Council to deliver on the ten commitments of the Charter and ensure that good governance is in place to monitor progress.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	Not to deliver on the ten commitments of the Charter or to withdraw the Council’s commitment to the Charter. These options have been rejected as the Council wishes to continue to make best efforts to ensure that there is no modern slavery present in its supply chain.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
3.	Cabinet adopted the Charter Against Modern Slavery in December 2018 as per the link in this report: - http://www.southampton.gov.uk/modernGov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=126&MId=3829&Ver=4		

4.	Since the Charter was adopted, progress has been made against each of the ten commitments of the Charter. This progress is summarised in this report.
5.	The Council has trained its procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) course on Ethical Procurement and Supply. In September 2019, following the return of the Procurement Service to Council control, the Council successfully gained its certificate of achievement from CIPS which allows the Council to use the CIPS mark.
6.	The CIPS mark signals to suppliers, customers, potential employees and other stakeholders that they are dealing with an organisation that is committed to ensuring its staff are trained in ethical sourcing and supplier management, and that they have adopted ethical values in the way in which they source and manage suppliers.
7.	The Council's own contract terms and conditions have been reviewed and amended to require its contractors to ensure that it fully complies with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies. New clauses referring to Modern Slavery have been included in all new contracts awarded from September 2019, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
8.	In respect of paragraph 7, it is important to note that sometimes the Council does not dictate the form of terms and conditions used in a contract. It is therefore not possible to declare that all new and novated contracts state contract termination as a potential for non-compliance.
9.	In accordance with the Public Contracts Regulation 2015 (Regulation 84), Procurement must record where an abnormally low tender has been identified. The Council's Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (Regulation 84) Log records that no abnormally low tenders have been identified, to date, for the 2019/20 Financial Year.
10.	The Council's new Social Value and Green City Procurement Policy has been drafted, and is due to be considered by Cabinet in February 2020. This policy will highlight to suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one. The policy will also state that the Council's tendered contractors are required to adopt a whistle-blowing policy that enables their staff to report in confidence on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
11.	In September 2019 an article was published in <i>The Bulletin</i> (the Council's internal staff e-newsletter) to publicise the Council's <i>Whistleblowing Duty to Act Policy</i> so that employees know how to make a report in confidence about any suspected examples of modern slavery.
12.	The Council reviewing how it will undertake future assessment of its contractual spending in order to identify any potential issues connected with modern slavery.
13.	Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires certain organisations to develop a slavery and human trafficking statement each year. The slavery and human trafficking statement sets out the steps organisations have taken to ensure modern slavery is not taking place in their business or supply chains. The Council has received Modern Slavery Statements from its main strategic providers for 2019 and assurance of their support to the Council on commitments of the Charter.
14.	The Council is required to refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's National Referral Mechanism (NRM) any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery. During 2019, the Council has made no referrals to the NRM.
15.	The Charter requires the Council to report publicly each year on the implementation of the policy. The Council will publish the achievements against the ten commitments of the Charter on the Council website at the end of each Financial Year.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital /Revenue</u>	
16.	N/A
<u>Property/Other</u>	
17.	N/A
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
18.	Modern Slavery Act 2015, Section 1 Localism Act 2011 and Section 111 Local Government Act 1972.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
19.	N/A
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
20.	There are no related financial, service delivery or reputational risks.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
21.	The Charter will be reflected in the Social Value and Green City Procurement Policy due to be considered by Cabinet in February 2020.
KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Not Applicable
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	None
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
Privacy Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.	No
Other Background Documents	
Other Background documents available for inspection at: N/A	
Title of Background Paper(s) N/A	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None