

COUNCIL
11 JULY 2019

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

ITEM 6a

TITLE OF REPORT: ITEM REFERRED FROM CABINET: 27 JUNE 2019 – MODERN DAY SLAVERY TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT & CHARTER AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY

Extract from Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 June 2019

MODERN DAY SLAVERY TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT & CHARTER AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY

The Executive Member for Community Engagement introduced the report entitled Modern Day Slavery Transparency Statement & Charter Against Modern Slavery together with the following appendices:

- Appendix A – Transparency Statement on Modern Slavery;
- Appendix B – Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Action Plan 2018 – 2021
- Appendix C - Co-operative party Charter Against Modern Slavery extract page 2 Charter from Modern Slavery briefing.

Alternative Options Considered:

- In terms of the Transparency Statement there is no legal requirement to publish one and Cabinet could chose not to do so; however, the Local Government Associate advocates this as good practice;
- In terms of the Charter, the Cabinet have the option of referring this to Full Council or not doing so.

The Service Director – Legal and Community advised that the Safeguarding Group (an officer group) had considered the Transparency Statement and the Charter and were supportive of the principals, however would defer to the Contract and Procurement Group regarding implementation.

Some concern was expressed if the Charter was to be implemented in its stricted terms. However, if the Council were happy that offices used their best endeavours, they were supportive.

There was also some concern about the level of monitoring and reporting that mey be require. However if officer could work through the requirements with Members checking, they were happy with the proposals.

The Executive Member for Community Engagement suggested that this should be considered in a years time in order to assess any difficulties and any transgressions.

The following Members took part in the debate and asked questions:

- Councillor Sam North

The Executive Member for Community Engagement proposed that the wording of the Charter should be reconsidered before presentation to Council so that it include and item regarding training.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Transparency Statement 2019-2020, as attached as Appendix A to the report be approved:
- (2) That the actions to date, as per the Action Plan, as attached as Appendix B to the report be noted;
- (3) That the Service Director – Legal and Community be requested to present a report in July 2020 reviewing the Action Plan and particularly any difficulties faced or transgressions of the Charter.
- (4) That the wording of the Charter should be reconsidered before presentation to Council so that it include and item regarding training.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That, the Council agrees to adopt the Charter as attached as Appendix C to the report..

REASON FOR DECISIONS: To consider the Transparency Statement and related matters.