



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Proposed Corporate Action Plan</b>
<b>Date:</b>	24th September, 2021
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to set out for Committee approval a corporate action plan to meet the obligations of the Modern Slavery Act, 2015, including the updating of the annual Transparency Statement.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• agree to the proposed actions based on the NILGA guidelines, which are to be taken forward by various Departments; and</li><li>• approve the updated annual Transparency Statement.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Background</b> <p>The Modern Slavery Act 2015 aims to address slavery and trafficking by enhancing support and protection for victims, giving law enforcement the tools needed to target today's slave drivers and ensuring perpetrators can be severely punished. It also includes a provision to</p>

	encourage organisations to ensure their supply chains are slavery-free, known as the Transparency in Supply Chains arrangements (“TISC”).
	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.2	The Council has voluntarily published an annual Modern Slavery Transparency in Supply Chains statement on our website since 2015. This sets out what an organisation has done to ensure there is no modern slavery in their supply chains or any part of their business. This year, the annual Transparency Statement has been significantly refreshed by Commercial and Procurement Services to reflect current guidance on its content and layout. An updated version for 20-21 is set out in <b>Appendix 1</b> and will be published well before the deadline of October 21. Please note that due to business pressures in Governance and Compliance Services the update of last year’s statement was delayed.
3.3	In July 2018, the Home Secretary undertook an independent review of the MSA and made recommendations, one of which was to strengthen Section 54 by extending the requirement to publish Modern Slavery Statements to government and the public sector.
3.4	In July 2019, the UK Government launched a consultation on measures to strengthen the TISC arrangements, and recently published its proposals on how it plans to take this work forward. Many of the proposed changes will require legislative change which the UK Government hopes to take forward later in 2021. The proposed changes will see a strengthening of the TISC arrangements for commercial businesses, and will, for the first time, extend them so they apply to the public sector.
3.5	The Northern Ireland Department of Justice conducted a consultation exercise, which closed in May 2021, relating to the extension of the TISC arrangements to the public sector in Northern Ireland.
3.6	In accordance with Section 12 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Department of Justice publishes an annual Modern Slavery Strategy. The most recent Modern Slavery Strategy for 2019-2020 is the third strategy published by the Department of Justice and a consultation on the 2021/22 Modern Slavery Strategy recently took place. The purpose of the strategy is to raise awareness of modern slavery offences and so reduce the threat from, the vulnerability to, and the prevalence of, modern slavery in Northern Ireland.
3.7	In May 2020, NILGA published a guide for Councils with the Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership (NISMP), (a multi-agency, cross-party and cross-departmental body working to reflect the regionally specific needs of Northern Ireland in the development and

	<p>implementation of UK immigration policy). The guide was also produced in partnership with the Department of Justice and the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. It sets out some actions which councils can take to tackle modern slavery specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Provide Modern Slavery Awareness Training</b> for all council personnel in public facing services (Lead: Corporate HR / Commercial and Procurement Services / Governance and Compliance Services)</li> <li><b>2. Designate a point of contact</b> to report modern slavery concerns and raise awareness of modern slavery among communities (Lead: City and Neighbourhood Services)</li> <li><b>3. Establish clear procurement guidelines</b> (Lead: Commercial and Procurement Services)</li> <li><b>4. Collaborate with other councils and agencies</b> (Lead: All Directors)</li> </ol> <p>3.8 The suggested actions for councils are attached at <b>Appendix 2</b>, which also includes a summary of the guidance from NILGA and a suggested lead within the Council for each action.</p>
3.9	<p><b>Reporting</b></p> <p>Governance and Compliance Services will co-ordinate an annual report on progress to be brought to committee.</p>
3.10	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>This will involve staff from City and Neighbourhood Services, Legal Services, Governance and Compliance Services, Commercial and Procurement Services, Corporate HR and Marketing and Corporate Communications.</p>
3.11	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>Any equality, good relations or rural needs implications will be identified using the council's usual screening process.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Draft Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2020 - 2021</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Suggested Actions for councils</p>