

# Birmingham City Council Modern Slavery Statement April 2020/21

Birmingham City Council (the “Council”), as part of Local Government and as an employer, commissioner and contractor of other bodies, recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. The Council acknowledges its duty to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking. The relevant sections of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 are Sections 43, 52 and 54.

The Council is absolutely committed to preventing and taking action against identified slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities, its supply chains and the wider community.

This Statement operates within the scope of the previous Transparency Statement, Pledge and Declaration. It sets out what the Council has completed to date and further proposed activities in tackling slavery and human trafficking in response to the Modern Slavery Act.

## **Why is this important?**

The Council recognises that victims of slavery and human trafficking are treated as commodities and exploited for criminal gain. The Council intends to combat this crime. The Council will work with West Midlands Police and other law enforcement agencies to help disrupt this illegal act and bring to justice perpetrators of such crimes across the City. This Statement therefore serves as the basis of current and future policies and procedures to help combat this crime.

## **Implementation and Assurance:**

Directors will manage the implementation, working with managers to identify high risk activities and actions related to slavery and human trafficking; measuring and reporting performance annually through the Birmingham City Council Modern Slavery Partnership Group.

The following activities continue to be undertaken to ensure that the Council is compliant with the Modern Slavery Act 2015:

- Councillors Induction and Training – includes safeguarding and modern slavery and human trafficking.
- Employee Training – the Council has mandatory training for all employees on modern slavery enabling them to recognise and report on relevant concerns. In addition, specific training is also provided to those employees with procurement and contract management functions to consider appropriate measures in projects.
- The Council is fully aware of its designation as a First Responder under the National Referral Mechanism and its responsibility to identify potential victims and refer cases to the UK Human Trafficking Centre Competent Authority of the National Referral Mechanism.
- Suppliers, Contractors and Service Providers – when procuring goods or services, managers will ensure that the requirements refer to the Modern Slavery Statement and as part of tender evaluation and ongoing contract management, they consider the potential and likelihood of modern slavery and seek mitigations from the supplier through a clear understanding of the suppliers’:
  - structure, business and supply chains;
  - policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;

- due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains. Appropriate performance indicators and steps are taken to assess, monitor and manage any risks.
- training available to all staff to support the identification of slavery and human trafficking.
- All contracts contain terms for default events and breaches of contract, and these could be activated if modern slavery is found in our supply chain.
- The Standard Selection Questionnaire covers the requirements for relevant commercial organisations as defined in Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and there will be non-selection if suppliers do not meet selection criteria.
- Full details of the Council's spend are published on the Council's [Data Factory](#).
- Partnership Working – the Council works in partnership with a wide range of local and national agencies including the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and the West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network to prevent neglect and abuse and to detect and report occurrences and support victims.
- The Council's website can be used as a resource about slavery and human trafficking, including how to recognise and report it and seek support for potential victims.

Additionally, the Council has signed up to a United Nations pledge to become a slavery free community.

Further activities in 20/21 include but are not limited to:

- A number of measures to mitigate the risk of slavery and human trafficking have been included in this year's Social Value Themes Outcomes and Measures and the Council will review its Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility measures in line with these.
- The Council will continue to build on a strong relationship with West Midlands Police to tackle slavery and human trafficking.
- The Council will aim to become accredited with the Cooperative Modern Slavery Charter.

This voluntary statement is made with reference to Section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes the Birmingham City Council anti-slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 March 2021.

This statement was approved by the Council Leadership Team of Birmingham City Council on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.