

Report of the Chief Executive

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement1. Purpose of report

To advise Committee of an updated Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for 2019-20.

2. Detail

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the Act) consolidates various offences relating to human trafficking and slavery.

Section 54 of the Act imposes a legal duty on commercial organisations, which supply goods and/or services from or to the UK and have a global turnover of more than £36 million, to publish a slavery and human trafficking statement each financial year. Broxtowe Borough Council engages in commercial activities by providing services (some of which are statutory and some discretionary) and its annual turnover is greater than the specified £36 million. Whilst the Modern Slavery Act 2015 does not state that local authorities specifically are included in those organisations legally required to publish a statement, many do so as a matter of good practice. At its meeting on the 12 December 2018, the Community Safety Committee resolved that Broxtowe Borough Council should produce an annual statement. This was on the basis that the Council should be keen to raise awareness of slavery and human trafficking and as a large scale local employer and provider of services, should make its position of zero tolerance in respect of slavery and trafficking clear and unequivocal.

In terms of training our employees, relevant information is provided in one of the Broxtowe Learning Zone course. There are 481 employees in the audience for this course and 53 of them completed it as part of the 'Protecting You and Your Community' certification during 2019/20. However, a total of 444 employees have completed the course since its launch and are still certified. The Chief Audit and Control Officer has indicated that a specific audit of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking could be added to the Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22, if the corporate risk was deemed to be moderate to significant. A proposed Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement, updated for 2019-20 is attached at appendix 1. An extract from the Act giving details of the requirement is attached at appendix 2.

Recommendation

Committee is asked to APPROVE the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2019-20.

Background papers

Nil