

Motion: Motion 1 – Proposed by Councillor Matthew Hicks and seconded by Councillor Sarah Adams.

This Council recognises the role of the government in stamping out modern slavery, described by our Prime Minister as “one of the greatest human rights abuses of our time. Although the Modern Slavery Act 2015 does not specifically require local authorities to comply with Section 54, many councils are voluntarily preparing a slavery and human trafficking statement. This Council should be among them.

This Council deplores that slavery of various forms exists in this country and therefore will do all it can, and use all appropriate legislation, to help stamp it out.

This Council commits to:

- Reviewing its procurement processes to see where they can be strengthened to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015. This would include aspects such as training, whistle-blowing policies and effective sanctions for non-compliance.
- Bringing a paper to Cabinet for debate and decision, to enable the production of an annual slavery and human trafficking statement reporting on our actions to identify, prevent and mitigate modern slavery in our supply chain.

And further, this Council condemns all forms of modern slavery including Forced Labour, Bonded Labour, Domestic Servitude, Sex Trafficking, and Child Labour. We await with interest the findings of the Home Office commissioned research on sex trafficking and exploitation through prostitution. We will also watch the progress through Parliament of the Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill.

Members present agreed by unanimously.