

13. Modern Slavery Statement and Charter

The Public Protection, Anti-Social Behaviour and Licensing Service Manager:

- a) Presented a report which informed the Policy Scrutiny Committee of the Council's roles and responsibilities relating to modern slavery;
- b) Informed the Committee of the requirement for the Council to have a Modern Slavery Statement in place and presented the City of Lincoln Council's proposed statement, as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- c) Presented the Committee with the Charter Against Modern Slavery, as set out in Appendix B of the report, and took members through the ten commitments for local authorities to attain.
- d) Invited members' questions and comments.

A question was raised as to what would happen to any victims of modern slavery should any instances be reported or highlighted by the Council, either through officers or members. It was noted that this would depend upon the individual circumstances of the case, but Lincolnshire Police's Understanding and Safeguarding Emerging Communities team would be involved, together with Social Services, as such victims were often vulnerable. The City Council may become involved should consideration need to be given to re-housing, for example.

Regarding sub-contractors, a question was raised as to how the wages they paid their employees was monitored further to point 3 of the Charter which sought to challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they did not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery. It was noted that the Council's procurement processes had a number of checks in place to address this matter.

RESOLVED that the adoption of the Modern Slavery Statement and Charter Against Modern Slavery be supported and recommended to the Executive for approval.