



# Doncaster Council

## Report

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Date: 30th June 2020

To the Chair and Members of the Cabinet

### CHARTER AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Jane Nightingale	All	Yes/No

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is for the Council to agree to sign up to the Co-operative Party's Charter Against Modern Slavery.
2. Signing up to the Charter will result in changes to existing policies and practices.

### EXEMPT REPORT

3. This report is not exempt.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

4. That the Council sign up to the Co-operative Party's Charter Against Modern Slavery, as shown in Appendix 1.
5. That the Council implement practices and policy changes to adhere to the principles of the Charter and ensure compliance with its requirements.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

6. Signing up to the Charter will ensure the Council adheres to enhanced practices which aim to counter and eliminate modern slavery. This gives the citizens of Doncaster the assurance that the Council will not tolerate and will actively try

to prevent modern slavery.

## **BACKGROUND**

7. Though slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, worldwide there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) suggest that there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour.
8. There were 3805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims estimated by the Home Office.
9. Modern Slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.
10. Local authorities have a number of statutory duties under the Modern Slavery Act 2015. This includes the duty to notify the Home Office of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking. The Council currently adhere to the statutory obligations contained within the Modern Slavery Act.
11. This Charter and guide does not cover all statutory and safeguarding duties. Those are covered in more detail in the Local Government Association (LGA) guide on how councils can tackle modern slavery. This Charter is a way of recognising what councils can do above their statutory obligations to raise awareness and ensure their own supply chains do not contribute to modern slavery.
12. The Charter is a series of simple and low-cost actions that councils can take to ensure their supply chains are not contributing to modern slavery. Awareness is very important, in recognising and acting on the signs of slavery. That is why training of officers is key, as well as informing suppliers of their obligations. Key rights for workers, such as freedom to join a trade union and whistleblowing, help ensure an environment where modern slavery can't thrive.
13. This Charter relates specifically to local authorities' approach to procurement. Nationally councils spend over £40bn procuring services through the contracts annually. Such serious spending lends councils leverage which can be used to stamp out any modern slavery being practised in their supply chains.
14. Doncaster Council spends approximately £200m with suppliers annually. Progressive councils, such as Doncaster Council, have long used procurement policy to secure social value, from requiring contractors to pay the real living wage to refusing to do business with construction firms who practise blacklisting, to securing local apprenticeships. The purpose then of the Co-operative Party's Charter Against Modern Slavery is to commit

signatory Councils to taking ten practical steps to ensure their contractors do not exploit anybody as a modern slave, for instance through forced labour or debt bondage. The Charter provides a framework for local authorities to ensure that none of the Council's spend ends up in the pockets of traffickers. The ten points are as follows:

- 1) Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institutes of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course Ethical Procurement and Supply
- 2) Require contractors to fully comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance
- 3) Challenge abnormally low cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
- 4) Highlight to suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one
- 5) Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
- 6) Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery
- 7) Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery
- 8) Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed
- 9) Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
- 10) Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

## **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

15. To sign up to the Charter Against Modern Slavery and adhere to the requisites of the charter through changing applicable policies and procedures.
16. Do not sign up to the Charter Against Modern Slavery but continue to ensure statutory compliance.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION**

17. To demonstrate and implement policies and practices that could prevent modern slavery through the Council's supply chains.

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

18.

Outcomes	Implications
<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li> <li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li> <li>• Inward Investment</li> </ul>	<p>Signing up to the Charter commits the council to take more rigorous steps in ensuring there is no modern slavery through its supply chains. This protects the staff of suppliers that the Council contract with.</p>
<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li> <li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li> <li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own home</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering</li> </ul>	

	<p>value for money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	
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**RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

19. Implementation resources have been deemed as light and can be absorbed into existing staff roles.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [NJD 11/3/20]**

20. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 consolidated and clarified existing modern slavery and human trafficking offences and increased the maximum sentences for committing these offences to disrupt activities and bring to justice modern slavery perpetrators.

21. By the Council signing up to the Co-operative Party’s Charter Against Modern Slavery the Council will be agreeing to take the 10 practical steps as set out at paragraph 14 above. The result of which reduces the potential for contractors to exploit anybody as a modern slave or carry out human trafficking offence.

22. This further enforces the Council commitment to irradiate any potential for these types of offences occurring in the Councils supply chain.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [AT 10/03/20]**

23. There will be no expected costs from signing up to the charter, and if there are, they are unlikely to be significant and so met from existing budgets.

**HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [MW 11/03/20]**

24. There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report. The MS Charter is made readily available to all staff with access to the external website.

**TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [PW 09/03/20]**

25. There are no technology implications in relation to this report.

**HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RS 01/06/20]**

26. Modern Slavery is a global public health concern yet often goes unnoticed. The charter commits the council to increasing awareness and acting to help eradicate modern slavery and through improving health and wellbeing.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [HW 09/03/2020]**

27. The adoption of the Charter will ensure higher standards in relation to tackling the issues faced by certain sectors of society with regards to modern slavery.

## **CONSULTATION**

28. There has been consultation with Councillor Nightingale and Councillor Jones.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

29. Local Government Association (LGA) guide on how councils can tackle modern slavery. (<https://www.local.gov.uk/modern-slavery-council-guide>)

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

CIPS – Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply

LGA – Local Government Association

## **REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS**

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the co-operative party

# CHARTER AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY

[Your Council Name] will:

1. Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.