

## **Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Transparency Statement 2018/19**

This statement sets out Colchester Borough Council's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to its business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business, and its supply chains. The statement relates to actions and activities during the financial year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

As part of Local Government, the Council recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. In addition to the Council's responsibility as an employer, it acknowledges its duty as a Borough Council to notify the Secretary of State of suspected victims of slavery or human trafficking as introduced by section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The Council is also a 'First Responder' under the National Referral Mechanism which involves making referrals in order to secure appropriate protection and support for victims.

The Council is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking.

Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act states that the employer's slavery and human trafficking statement might include information on:

- its structure, business and supply chains;
- its policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;
- its due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains;
- the parts of its business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps that it has taken to assess and manage that risk;
- its effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or supply chains, measured against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate; and
- the training about slavery and human trafficking available to its staff.

This statement has been approved by the Council's Senior Management Team and the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety. It will continue to be reviewed and updated annually.

**Mike Lilley**

**Portfolio Holder for Communities, Wellbeing and Public Safety**

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