

Committee:	Cabinet	Date: 4 September 2025
Title:	Modern Slavery Statement 2025/26	
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Neil Hargreaves, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Economy	
Report Author:	Angela Knight, Strategic Director – Chief Operating Officer aknight@uttlesford.gov.uk	Key decision: N

Summary

1. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 is an Act of Parliament and is designed to combat modern slavery and equip law enforcement to fight this, it imposes severe penalties on perpetrators and enhances the support available for victims.
2. The bill was introduced to the House of Commons in October 2013 and received royal assent and became law on the 26 March 2015. Further amendments have been introduced to the original bill, with one relating to ‘Transparency in Supply Chain Provisions’, which sets out specific legislative requirements relating to the purchase of goods and services.
3. The legislation requires that businesses and organisations with an annual turnover of more than £36 million publish an annual Modern Slavery Statement, which sets out the steps the business or organisation has made to ensure that these practices are not happening within their supply chains.
4. Uttlesford District Council as a public sector organisation, an employer and a community leader is committed to undertaking a preventative approach to modern slavery and human trafficking within its corporate responsibilities and activities.
5. The publication of this Annual Statement is part of that commitment and highlights the activities undertaken to address this and the steps taken to ensure the council’s supply chains are free of this.

Recommendations

6. The Cabinet are requested to approve the Modern Slavery Statement for the year 2025/26, as set out in Appendix A.

Financial Implications

7. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Background Papers

[Modern Slavery Act 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)
[Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Transparency in Supply Chain Provisions](#)

Impact

Communication/Consultation	CMT and ICB
Community Safety	N/A

Equalities	An EqHIA is attached to this report as Appendix B
Health and Safety	There are no direct impacts to health and safety due to the publication of the Modern Slavery Statement.
Human Rights/Legal Implications	This statement supports the council's commitment to ensure that the human rights of all people are protected within its supply chains
Sustainability	The Modern Slavery Statement actions will be incorporated into the daily procurement processes
Ward-specific impacts	N/A
Workforce/Workplace	This Statement has no direct impact on the workforce, but demonstrates that the council is committed to supporting its workforce directly or indirectly through its supply chains

Background Information

8. The full statement is attached as Appendix A.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
If the Statement is not approved the council will not be compliant with Government Legislation	1	2	The council would need to state the reasons why it chose not to publish a statement

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure