

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	Policy and Finance Committee – 9 February 2023
SUBJECT:	Anti-Slavery Pledge
LEAD OFFICER:	Cathryn French – Safeguarding Officer
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Shaun Gunner
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION: The anti-slavery pledge directly contributes to the council’s vision of improving the wellbeing of its residents, by ensuring that potential exploitation does not exist within the council’s operations or within its supply chain.	
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT: Arun District Council as part of Local Government and as an employer, recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking. This is a corporate pledge that Arun District Council commits to do everything in its to make our district free of modern slavery.	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY: There are no direct financial implications in signing the Anti-Slavery pledge for Arun District Council.	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to request that the Policy and Finance Committee endorse and approve the Arun District Council’s Anti-Slavery Pledge.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.2. It is recommended that the Committee endorses the Anti-Slavery Pledge and recommends it onto Full Council so that the Pledge can be adopted.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. The Modern Slavery Policy was adopted by the Council on 9 December 2021. The Council is requested to sign and publish an Anti-Slavery Pledge demonstrating its public commitment to taking action, within the organisations powers and responsibilities to make the district free of modern slavery.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1. The Committee is asked to endorse and approve the Anti-Slavery Pledge, this has been attached as an Appendix to the report.
- 3.2. If approved, the Pledge will be published on the Council’s website.

3.3. The Pledge is in addition to the Council's Procurement Strategy which ensures supply chain transparency, to mitigate Modern Slavery in supply chains when purchasing goods and services.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1. For the purpose of this report consultation has been undertaken with Human Resources, Legal Services and the Finance Department.

5. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

5.1. Consideration of options/ alternatives are not required for this report.

6. COMMENTS BY THE INTERIM GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1. There are no direct financial implications in signing the Anti-Slavery pledge for Arun District Council.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

7.1. There are none.

8. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

8.1. This report has been shared with the Council's Legal Services team who have provided guidance for this report in that the Policy and Finance Committee are to refer the Pledge for Full Council consideration.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

9.1. As a local authority the council is encouraged to publish a supply chain transparency statement under Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 which, whilst not currently a legal Duty, is expected to become one in the near future. Human Resources are in support of the recommendations.

10. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

10.1. There is no direct impact.

11. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

11.1. There is no direct impact.

12. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

12.1. There is no direct impact- this Pledge is seeking to ensure the equality and diversity of all citizens.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

13.1. There is no direct impact.

14. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

14.1. This report has been shared with the Wellbeing and Communities team. The Council works in partnership with partner agencies such as West Sussex County Council and Sussex Police to work to reduce harms caused by Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. The Pledge demonstrates the Council's commitment to this.

15. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

15.1. There is no direct impact- this Pledge is seeking to enhance the human rights of all.

16. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

16.1. There is no direct impact.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Cathryn French
Job Title: Safeguarding Officer
Contact Number: 01903 737 828

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

[9 December 2021: Arun District Council Corporate Policy and Performance Committee: Modern Slavery Policy Statement](#)

Appendix 1- Anti Slavery Pledge

Pledge to become a Slavery Free Community