

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council September 2018



Modern Day Slavery

This Council notes:

- Though slavery was abolished in 1833, 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.
- There were 3,805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10-13,000 potential victims estimated by the Home Office in 2013 or the 136,000 estimated in the Global Slavery Index 2016.
- 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.

This Council believes:

- That actions need to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK.
- That councils have an important role to play in ensuring that in all areas of their work they are seeking to identify and tackle the scourge of modern slavery.
- That councils should use the power of their expenditure to ensure that their contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern slavery and exploitation.

This Council welcomes the initiative taken by the Co-operative Party to support local authorities to tackle modern slavery through procurement and the provision of a Charter to embed this in local practice; the wording of the Charter is:

Plymouth City Council 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.

Therefore, the City Council resolves to –

- (1) To ask all Service Directors, Scrutiny Panels and Cabinet Members to examine the work of the Council for which they have responsibility or oversight to ensure that the Council works to eliminate modern slavery from Plymouth.
- (2) To adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery to ensure our procurement practices don't support modern slavery.

Proposed by Councillor Chris Penberthy

Signed:



Seconded by Councillor Ian Tuffin

Signed:

