

**Report from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities****TITLE: Birmingham's Response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking****1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The attached document *Declaration of Intent* sets out the Council's response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, the position it wishes to adopt in regard to these horrific crimes, and outlines the actions the Council is prepared to take to help tackle this issue. This declaration has been developed in response to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The NRM was introduced in 2009 to meet the UK's obligations under the Council of European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and is the process of locating and identifying "potential victims of trafficking".
- 1.2 Additionally the attached document *Birmingham's Pledge* is a Pledge by Birmingham City Council to become a Slavery Free Community and join with other Council's and Organisations Country-Wide to help support the growth and development of a Slavery Free Community.

**2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 The *Declaration of Intent* and *Birmingham's Pledge* are new strategies developed in response to the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The *Declaration of Intent* outlines how the Council has chosen to respond to this crime and the actions it intends to take to tackle it.

The *Birmingham's Pledge* is a promise to try and make Birmingham a City where Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking are not tolerated and cannot survive.

The *Declaration of Intent* will have an impact on the following areas and help deliver against them:

Children: The Council has a duty under the Children Act 1989, where they have reason to believe that a child may suffer, or is suffering, significant harm, to investigate and decide whether any action is needed to protect the welfare of that child.

Adults: The Care Act 2014 sets out local responsibilities and roles for assessing and supporting adults in need of care and support.

Housing: Homelessness legislation provides a framework for councils to decide whether an individual is owed a statutory duty by the councils.

Public Procurement: The Council has a duty under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to ensure its procurement and supply chains are free of Modern Slavery and accordingly the Birmingham City Council Transparency Statement has been produced and accepted by Cabinet – Appendix 3.

This approach is consistent with the Vision and Priorities 2017 to 2020 report and the Council Business Plan and Budget 2017+.

### **3. Strategy Approach**

- 3.1 Birmingham City Council has formed a cross-directorate Modern Slavery Partnership Group which is charged under the *Declaration of Intent* with the responsibility for delivering against the promises and intentions contained in the Declaration.

#### **Motion**

That the *Declaration of Intent* (Appendix 1) be adopted as the City Council's response to the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and serve as its strategic policy document upon which delivery plans be created and developed in line with its aspirations.

That the *Birmingham's Pledge* (Appendix 2) be adopted by the City Council as a vision to aspire to, with the intention to use the principles and proposals outlined in the *Declaration of Intent* as the means to realise the Pledge.