

# Report – Policy and Resources Committee

## Modern Slavery Statement 2024-29

*To be presented on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024*

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons  
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

### **SUMMARY**

This report presents for approval a refreshed Modern Slavery Statement made pursuant to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The statement continues the work laid out in the 2018 and 2021 statements, outlining the steps that the City of London Corporation has taken and is continuing to take to ensure that modern slavery is not taking place within the organisation, within the Square Mile or within our supply chains.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members:

- Approve the Modern Slavery Statement 2024-2029 (Appendix 1).
- Approve the publication of the statement both on the City Corporation website and the HM Government's Modern Slavery Statement registry.

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. The Modern Slavery Statement is made in response to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 ('the Act').
2. The City Corporation was not a relevant commercial organisation as defined by section 54 of the Act, however, in November 2018, Policy and Resources Committee signed off the City Corporation's Modern Slavery Statement. This decision aligns with our dedication to responsible business principles and demonstrates our commitment to due diligence and transparency.
3. Members approved the first City Corporation Modern Slavery Statement in 2018. This brought together the roles, remits, commitments, and all work undertaken to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking across the organisation. This contained an ambition to publish a Modern Slavery Statement on an annual basis and set in motion a number of initiatives – e.g., a City of London Corporation Modern Slavery Working Group.

4. The City Corporation has published a subsequent Modern Slavery Statement since by way of an update in 2021.
5. Due to disruption caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 with subsequent resourcing pressures, the ability to keep an updated, annual publication of a Modern Slavery Statement has not been met.

### **Current Position**

6. In 2023, an internal review was conducted to ascertain how we can improve on our efforts to combat modern slavery. Recommendations have been taken forward to relevant Department leads and incorporated within this statement.
7. The Deputy Town Clerk (DTC) has been nominated by the Town Clerk as Corporate Lead for the City Corporation's Modern Slavery Statement. Moving forward, the Deputy Town Clerk will be supported by a Modern Slavery Strategic Lead, to help coordinate delivery of contributing officers across the City Corporation.
8. The statement has been drafted in consultation with City of London Police, Department for Children and Community Services, Port Health and Public Protection, People and Human Resources, Corporate Strategy and Performance, Town Clerk's Department, Commercial, Change, and Portfolio Management team in the Chamberlain's Department and officers from the City Bridge Foundation.
9. It is intended that this Statement will be valid for the period from 2024-2029, in line with our Corporate Plan and People Strategy, with any required textual changes to be updated annually. The City Corporation's efforts to combat modern slavery will be reflected in respective Departmental and Institutional reporting.

### **Proposals**

10. Members are asked to approve the Modern Slavery Statement and approve its publication on both the City Corporation website and HM Government's Modern Slavery Statement registry.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

**Strategic implications** – Though this statement principally supports our Corporate Plan 2024-2029 ambition to Provide Excellent Services, all six outcomes are interlinked and strive for equity, equality, diversity and inclusion to ensure impactful delivery of services.

**Financial implications** – None.

**Resource implications** – Work on modern slavery has already been established and is being delivered by the relevant Departments and Teams. This paper does not request any changes to the level of resources allocated to tackle modern slavery.

**Legal implications** – The City of London Corporation is under no legal duty to produce a Modern Slavery Statement at this time.

**Risk implications** – None.

**Equalities implications** – Work to tackle modern slavery and, as relevant to the functions being discharged by the City Corporation, Equalities Impact Assessments would be completed by teams undertaking work to ensure proper consideration of equalities implications.

## **Conclusion**

11. The City of London Corporation acknowledges its responsibility to identify and eradicate modern slavery within its operations. This Statement demonstrates the City Corporation's comprehensive and ongoing commitment to preventing modern slavery in all aspects of our organisation, jurisdiction, and supply chains.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – 2024-2029 Modern Slavery Statement (Full Statement, and Statement Summary)

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

**Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward**  
Chairman, Policy and Resources Committee