

Essex County Council Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement

Our Vision

Essex County Council is committed to eliminating acts of modern slavery and human trafficking within its business and in its supply chains, sub-contractors and partners.

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54, Part 6 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 which requires Essex County Council to incorporate policies and monitoring procedures within their business practices which sets out the steps Essex County Council will take to eradicate slavery and human trafficking

Essex County Council is dedicated to improving Essex and the lives of our residents. Our ambition is to deliver the best quality of life in Britain. We will achieve this by providing high-quality, targeted services that deliver real value for money.

Category & Supplier Relationship and Contract Management team

The Council is utilising the Category Management approach to minimise and eliminate any market risks concerning slavery and human trafficking. Category plans and strategies utilise market risk assessment tools to identify countries that use child and forced labour to produce good and services.

To comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 Essex County Council have updated their professional and technical ability tender questions within our procurement sourcing process. The questions require a bidder to evidence their compliance with the Modern Slavery Act. Any bidder who fails to evidence their compliance with the required legislation shall be excluded from participating further in the tender process.

Also, within the Essex County Council's standard contract terms now incorporated clauses that specify the supplier's contractual obligation concerning Modern Slavery.

Any supplier engaged by Essex County Council to undertake the supply of goods and /or services is contracted to do so in line with the following Authority's policies:

- Safeguarding
- Equality & Diversity Statement
- Code of Conduct
- Whistle Blowing

These policies are key to insuring that staff employed by our supply chain has appropriate channels to report any incidents of slavery and human trafficking.

Policies, Due Diligence & Audit Process

The Essex County Council's Supplier relationship and contract management team are responsible for:-

- Increase openness, transparency and efficiency in the management of supply chains,
- Improved ability to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in supply chains.
- Improve communications with suppliers
- Enhance relationships with suppliers

The Supplier Relationship and Contract Management Team is responsible for undertaking audits on suppliers to ensure compliance with the Contract Agreement. The team is currently reviewing how modern slavery will be incorporated into the contract management process.

Training

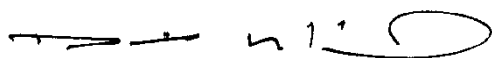
Essex County Council is currently developing a training module for the Commercial team concerning the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and wider Diversity and Equality issues.

The organisation's is also reviewing the Council's safeguarding training module to address the issues of Modern Slavery. This will include how to identify victims of forced and child labour and the actions that are to be taken to protect such victims.

Aims for the Coming Year

Over the next 12 months Essex County Council will focus on the following with regards the Modern Slavery Act 2015:

- Work and improve communications with our partners within Essex to ensure the safety of vulnerable children and adults
- Improved transparency of end to end supply chains to understand areas of higher risk in more detail.
- Undertake a review of the most appropriate manner to address modern slavery with active contracts i.e. audits, KPIs
- Review the professional and technical questions included within the invitation to tender.
- Roll out training to specific Essex County Council staff to address Modern Slavery and other Diversity and Equality issues.



Cllr David Finch
Leader of the Council



Andrew Spice
Commercial Director