

Title of motion: Modern Slavery and Sandwell Council.

Proposer: Cllr Amrita Dunn, Seconder: Cllr Scott Chapman

Council recognises progress made across the West Midlands to eradicate modern slavery but acknowledges that there are approximately over 4,000 survivors of Modern Slavery in the West Midlands Combined Authority area.

Council notes and welcomes its previous decision to adopt a Modern Slavery Statement.

Council further acknowledges and reaffirms the importance of vigilance for all Sandwell Council elected members and employees when dealing with supplier contracts with high-risk sectors being care, construction, agriculture, and hospitality.

Council therefore reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that Sandwell is Slavery Free and, recognising the importance of partnership work in the fight against Modern Slavery, resolves to –

1. Request the Leader and Cabinet review and update the current ‘Slavery Free Sandwell Strategy Plan’ with achievable goals which will enable regular assessment of progress and scrutiny of areas which may require improvement.
2. Request the Chief Executive convene a West Midlands Anti-Slavery Summit - inviting all the local authorities in the West Midlands Combined Authority region, the Mayor of the West Midlands, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and our region’s Members of Parliament, as well as relevant charitable organisations like the Black Country Women’s Aid where partners can share best practices as well as improve collaboration among regional partners.
3. Implement annual modern slavery and human trafficking training for all elected members and council employees.
4. Continue to engage all stakeholders, including elected members, council employees, and contracted partners through regular awareness campaigns and reports on our Modern Slavery strategy being delivered to Council regularly and reaffirms the principle of ensuring that all members of this authority are clear in knowing it is our duty to highlight concerns to ensure the Council can fulfil its role as a First Responder Organisation to refer potential victims.