

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 29 November 2023

Report Title

Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review – Modern Slavery

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Steve Parry, Community Safety Officer.
01709 334565 or steve.parry@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

To report on the response to the findings and recommendations from the spotlight review into Modern Slavery that took place with Council Officers and partner agencies on the 1st of November 2022.

Recommendations

That Council note Cabinet's response to the recommendations as summarised in the Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny review – Modern Slavery at Appendix 1.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Cabinet's Response to Scrutiny Review – Modern Slavery
Appendix 2 – Initial Equality Screening Assessment Form Part A
Appendix 3 – Initial Equality Screening Assessment Form Part B
Appendix 4 – Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Report to Cabinet 19th June 2023, 'Scrutiny Review Recommendations – Modern Slavery](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Cabinet – 13th October 2023
Cabinet – 19 December 2022

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review – Modern Slavery

1. Background

- 1.1 In July 2018, the Council resolved to adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery. The resolution committed the Council to a range of activities, including ensuring contractors and suppliers complied with the Modern Slavery Act 2015; raising awareness of the Policy; developing whistle-blowing systems and referral routes to the National Crime Agency should suspicions of illegal activity emerge. A commitment was given to publishing an annual review to report on implementation and activity.
- 1.2 At its meeting in November 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB), considered the annual report of the Safer Rotherham Partnership. In it, the Partnership detailed its commitment to tackling modern slavery and identified it as priority. As over three years had passed since the charter was originally adopted, OSMB agreed to add the issue to its work programme and subsequently decided to hold a spotlight review to examine the effectiveness of partnership interventions to tackle modern slavery in Rotherham.
- 1.3 The spotlight review took place on 1st November 2022. Its methodology and invited witnesses are detailed in Section 2.2 of the report to Cabinet on 13th October 2023.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The key issues are set out in Appendix 1, which sets out the main findings and recommendations from OSMB and Cabinet's response. The recommendations and corresponding actions are designed to give Members the assurance that the finding and recommendations have been considered.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 It is recommended that Council note that Cabinet approved the response to the recommendations as summarised in the Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review – Modern Slavery at Appendix 1.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Details of consultation have been set out in the relevant sections (section 4) of the Cabinet report in Appendix 1 and in Appendix 3 – Initial Equality Screening Assessment Form Part B.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Cabinet's responses to each of the recommendations and associated timescales are detailed in Appendix 1.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 Financial implications are outlined within the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Legal Advice and Implications are outlined within the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 Human Resources Advice and Implications are outlined within the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults are outlined within the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Details of any implications are listed within the Initial Equalities Screening Form (Part A) and Analysis (Part B) completed and included in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment was undertaken to support the development of the Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) Plan 2022-25 which includes Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. This was presented to Council on 5th October 2022. The SRP coordinates existing partner activity and resources and no specific impacts have been identified arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 Implications for partners are set out in the main sections of the Cabinet report listed in Appendix 1.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are no risks directly rising from this report.

14. Accountable Officers

Sam Barstow, Assistant Director, Community Safety and Street Scene
Emma Ellis, Head of Service, Community Safety and Regulatory Services

	Name	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	20/11/23
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	17/11/23
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Bal Nahal	17/11/23
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)	N/A	
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	N/A	
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Paul Woodcock, Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment	13/11/23
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	N/A	

Steve Parry, Community Safety Officer.
01709 334565 or steve.parry@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).