

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY AND MODERN DAY SLAVERY STATEMENT**

**Councillor M Winn**

**Cabinet Member for Communities**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. To inform Cabinet of the new Safeguarding Policy and Modern Day Slavery Statement.

### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 To thank the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee for its input to this subject and to note the attached draft Safeguarding Policy and to approve for publication the proposed Modern Day Slavery Act Statement attached to this report.

### **3. Supporting Information**

- 3.1 Following an internal audit of the Council's safeguarding policies and procedures in 2018, officers had been working to improve awareness, highlighting the importance and reminding both officers and Members of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding. A new mandatory e- learning training module was rolled out to all staff and a training session for Members was delivered at a Council meeting in 2018. To complement this, a decision was taken to introduce a new Safeguarding policy, a copy of which is attached.

Officers have also drafted a new modern day slavery statement for approval and publication on the Council's web site, a copy of which is also attached.

The Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee received a similar report at its meeting on 27 March, 2019 and was supportive of both the Safeguarding Policy and the Modern Day Slavery Act Statement. The Committee had been advised of individual police operations within the Thames Valley area.

### **4. Options Considered/Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1 None as such. The Council takes its safeguarding role extremely seriously hence the introduction of a formal policy. The Modern day slavery statement affirms the Council's commitment to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business or supply chains.

### **4. Resource Implications**

None.

**Contact Officer:** Chris Oliver (01296) 585005.

**Background documents:** These are listed in the attached report.