



<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
West Mercia Energy Joint Committee	
25 th September 2026	
	<u>Public</u>

ANTI-SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING POLICY

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report is to present to the Joint Committee the updated Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy for WME for approval.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Joint Committee are asked to approve the WME Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 3.2 There are no direct environmental, equalities or climate change consequences arising from this report.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. Background

- 5.1 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 is aimed at combating crimes of slavery and human trafficking and recognises that businesses have a role to play in tackling these crimes. Section 54 of the Act requires any commercial organisation with a turnover of over £36m p.a. to publish an annual statement for each financial year to detail what steps the organisation has taken to ensure that human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains or its business (this does not mean the organisation must guarantee the entire supply chain is slavery free); or make a declaration that no such steps have been taken. The aim is to ensure that businesses are transparent about what they are doing to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking.
- 5.2 In accordance with section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, a statement must be published at the end of the relevant financial year and specify the steps taken within the previous financial year to ensure that no slavery or human trafficking is taking place in any part of its business or in its supply chains.
- 5.3 The WME Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy was approved by the Joint Committee on 25th September 2017 and the draft annual statement was approved by the Joint Committee in March with the final statement subsequently published on the WME website in April.
- 5.4 We have reviewed and updated this policy after recently completing the Government's Modern Slavery Assessment which highlighted some areas where our policy could be improved. These changes have been marked on the attached updated policy. We will continue to review and update this policy as required considering such assessments.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
WME Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy – 25 th September 2017
Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2025/26 – 27 th March 2026
Member Councillor P Stoddart of Herefordshire Council (chair of the Joint Committee)
Appendices WME Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy