



# Modern Slavery Statement

May 2022

## Basildon Borough Council

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## Modern Slavery Statement

This statement explains how Basildon Borough Council aims to understand and address all potential modern slavery risks related to its business. This statement is subject to continual annual review and will be published on the Council's website. It can be found at [www.Basildon.gov.uk/ModernSlavery](http://www.Basildon.gov.uk/ModernSlavery).

### **Our Commitment**

Basildon Borough Council (the council) is committed to opposing Modern Slavery (and Human Trafficking) through its roles as a public sector organisation, an employer and community leader. The council will undertake a preventative approach to modern slavery within its corporate responsibilities and activities.

This annual statement sets out the council's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to our activities and to put in place steps to eliminate acts of modern slavery within our business and in our supply chains, sub-contractors, and partners.

The council is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in all its activities, and to ensuring its supply chains are also free of this. The publication of this Annual Statement is part of that commitment and highlights activities undertaken to address this.

### **Definition of Modern Slavery**

Modern Slavery (and Human Trafficking) involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people who, with the threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, abuse of power or deception are exploited for the purposes of prostitution, forced labour, slavery, forced criminality or other similar practices. Victims are trafficked all over the world, including in and around the UK.

### **Organisational Structure**

This statement covers the activities of the Basildon Borough Council. The council is one of twelve district councils in Essex. Basildon provides its services in a two-tier structure alongside Essex County Council. Basildon borough comprises the five main settlements of Basildon, Billericay, Wickford, Laindon and Pitsea. The borough has a population of 187,500 (ONS 2020 mid-year estimates) and has seen a population increase of 3.6% since 2014. This is projected to rise to 206,500 by 2043, a further rise of 10%.

There are 42 members of the council, who cover 16 wards. The council employs approximately 850 people. Elections to the council are held in three out of every four years, with one third of the seats on the council being elected each time.

Our three Corporate Plan ambitions, the strategic themes for our work, are defined as follows:

- **People:** We want Basildon to be home to healthy and active local communities able to support themselves and each other.
- **Place:** We want Basildon to offer a high quality of life for all residents through attractive, liveable, accessible and safe neighbourhoods and towns along with the provision of

enduring facilities, green spaces and town centres that meet the needs of the community.

- **Prosperity:** We want Basildon to have a thriving, dynamic and diverse economy where all our communities benefit from increased opportunity and our workforce has the right skills for our local economy and beyond

### **Due Diligence and Audit Processes within our Supply Chain**

Our procurement activity complies with the council's Procurement Rules and the wider Public Contract Regulations 2015.

To comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the council's supplier selection and audit process requires a bidder to evidence their compliance with the Modern Slavery Act if they are a relevant commercial organisation as defined by Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. As part of our due diligence, any bidder who fails to evidence their compliance with the required legislation shall be excluded from participating further in the tender process.

The council's Modern Slavery Statement is incorporated within its tender process and contract terms.

Any supplier engaged by the council to undertake the supply of goods and or services is contracted to do so in line with the following council policies:

- [Safeguarding Policy \(2022-27\)](#)
- [Inclusion and Diversity Policy \(2020 – 2024\)](#)
- [Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure \(2019 - 2024\)](#)

These policies are key to ensuring that staff employed by the council's supply chain have appropriate channels to report any incidents of slavery and human trafficking.

The council will review its Contract Management Toolkit to incorporate the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act into its contract monitoring process.

The council also engages with many SME's both locally and nationally. It is intended to also ensure and raise awareness of the Modern Slavery Act within the SME supply chain.

### **Multi-Agency Arrangements**

Essex Safeguarding Adults Board is a statutory multi-agency organisation bringing together different services and professional groups to safeguard adults with care and support needs across Essex. It also makes sure that arrangements work effectively to identify abuse or inadequate care, help vulnerable people and plan and implement joint preventative strategies. The ESAB works in conjunction with the Southend and Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Boards to produce the multi-agency SET Safeguarding Adults Guidelines – ensuring consistency of a response to safeguarding adults across the county.

The council works in partnership with the ESAB by raising awareness and promoting the welfare of adults with care and support needs, who may be unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation.

### Safeguarding Activity

Under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the council has a duty to notify the National Referral Mechanism (a Home Office body) of potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. The Act ensures tougher sentencing for human traffickers and provides support mechanisms for victims; it also introduces a defence for victims of slavery and trafficking.

### Relevant Organisational policies

The council has several policies and procedures in place that contribute to ensuring modern slavery does not occur in or through its business. These include:

- [Safeguarding Policy \(2022-27\)](#): Basildon Borough Council is fully committed to its duties and responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation; in particular through modern slavery (and human trafficking). The Safeguarding Policy reinforces that commitment and provides reassurance that the council will act in the best interests of the local community. This policy is supported by the Safeguarding Strategy, which sets out the required actions to be taken to secure delivery of this policy, underpinned by a range of operational procedures which are consistent with the local authority areas of Southend, Essex, and Thurrock (SET).
- [Inclusion and Diversity Policy \(2020 – 2024\)](#): As a public sector organisation, the council has a statutory duty to ensure that equality, diversity, and human rights are embedded into all its functions and activities, as required by the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998. The Equality Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in the community. It is underpinned by the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which supports good decision-making by ensuring public bodies (and others providing public services) consider how different people will be affected by their activities.
- [Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure \(2019 - 2024\)](#): The council's Whistleblowing Policy is designed to allow people employed by the council and/or members of the public to come forward and raise both disclosures and serious allegations of wrongdoing involving the actions of the council's employees, its members, contractors, or any aspect of the council's activities. This includes any circumstances that may give rise to an enhanced risk of modern slavery or human trafficking. The whistleblowing procedure is designed to make it easy for officers to make disclosures, without fear of retaliation.

### Training

The Community Safety Team has produced an internal training module for officers that covers modern slavery. This training explains the referral protocols to SET.

### Further information

This statement will be reviewed on an annual basis. The next review is due by 1 April 2023.

Further information on modern slavery can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

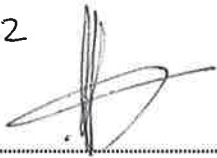
### Declaration

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54 (1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes Basildon Borough Council's Modern Slavery Statement for the term of the financial period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.



Scott Logan, Chief Executive

Date: 20.5.22



Councillor Andrew Baggott, Leader of the Council

Date: 20.5.22