

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

22 OCTOBER 2019

Questions from Members of the public received in accordance with Procedure Rule 10.

1. Question to the Leader, received from Daniel Kuszel of Godalming:

“Does the Leader of Waverley Borough Council believe it is right that a road located in the centre of Godalming that is busy with cars and football should only be cleaned once every 30 weeks?”

2. Question received from Gill Leslie and Lynda McDermott of Cranleigh:

“In December 2018 we requested Waverley Borough Council to sign and implement the Charter against Modern Slavery. Waverley Borough Council’s written reply was that they have “committed to making a clear statement on this subject which will be on our website in the New Year.” Our research shows that this has not happened - It is not mentioned at all in the 2019 Safer Waverley Partnership (SWP) plan We therefore call on Waverley Borough Council to take this issue seriously by signing the Modern Slavery Charter as supported by Surrey County Council and more than 50 other local authorities and wider organisations such as the Cooperative Group (See www.co-operative.coop/ethics/modern-slavery)

The Charter against Modern Slavery

Waverley Borough commits to:

1. Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply’s (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for noncompliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.

7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

We foresee no disadvantages to Waverley Borough Council in signing this Charter as there is cost free support available through the NGO, TISC REPORT (TISC = Transparency in Supply Chains) See (<https://tiscreport.org/>). On behalf of the borough this NGO will monitor companies supplying Waverley in relation to their compliance with section 54 of the Modern Day Slavery Act 2015

As an example, Rotherham Council used TISC Report to examine their suppliers, and discovered that 17 of their main suppliers were not in compliance.

It is not credible that Waverley Borough Council has no suppliers who are not complying with the Act. We urge the Council to take this step now."