**Greater Manchester Combined Authority**

**Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement**

**Introduction**

Modern Slavery can take many forms, including; slavery and servitude, forced or compulsory labour, human trafficking, child labour and exploitation (criminal and sexual).

Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 places a duty on organisations with a total annual turnover of £36m to develop a modern slavery and human trafficking statement each year. The slavery and human trafficking statement should set out what steps organisations have taken to ensure modern slavery is not taking place in their business or supply chains.

Since its implementation, the Modern Slavery Act 2015 has increased public and corporate awareness of slavery in the modern day and has focused the government’s and Crown Prosecution Service’s attention and resources towards fighting people trafficking, modern slavery, organised immigration crime and forced labour.

The economic and social costs of modern slavery are significant. According to the Home Office in 2018 Modern Slavery ranks second only to homicide in the unit cost of crimes, with the total cost of modern slavery in the year leading up to March 2018 being assessed to be up to £4.3bn.

Whilst there is no statutory duty for local government authorities or public sector organisations to produce and publish a modern slavery statement, it’s is felt that for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to do so would build on the organisation’s commitment to be a transparent and accountable organisation to the people of Greater Manchester and would send a strong statement to all our strategic and operational partners that;

* we are committed to ending modern slavery in all its forms,
* we have taken all possible steps to ensure that incidences of modern slavery do not occur within our supply chains and our spheres of influence; and
* we act as an example and point of support for our public and private sector partners as they develop and publish their own modern slavery statements activity to eradicate incidences of modern slavery across Greater Manchester.

**About the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)**

Greater Manchester is one of the country's most successful city-regions. Home to more than 2.7 million people and with an economy bigger than that of Wales or Northern Ireland, our vision is to make it one of the best in the world.

The GMCA is made up of the ten Greater Manchester councils (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) and the Mayor of Greater Manchester, who work with other local services, businesses, communities and other partners to improve the city-region. The GMCA gives local people more control over issues that affect their area. It means the region speaks with one voice and can make a strong case for resources and investment

We also understand and realise that we can't reach our ambitious vision for a prosperous, self-reliant Greater Manchester on our own. Therefore, we have teamed up with various public, private and voluntary organisations who can contribute to our ambitions at a higher, decision-making, level and have a significant level of influence and spend across the Greater Manchester region

These partners include;

* Local enterprise Partnership
* Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation
* Greater Manchester Police
* Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
* Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership
* Transport for Greater Manchester

Our vision is to make Greater Manchester one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old has been unveiled. The Greater Manchester Strategy sets out a set of clear priorities for delivering this goal, including:

* **All children to start school ready to learn**
* **Young people equipped for life**
* **Good quality housing, and an end to rough sleeping**
* **Greater Manchester to pioneer a positive vision for growing older**

The plan looks at 10 priority areas which affect all Greater Manchester residents and details how life will be improved for all who live in the city-region, from being ready for school, to starting work and growing old, as well as everything else in between.

* Read the [Greater Manchester Strategy: Our People, Our Place](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/ourpeopleourplace)

**GMCA Commitments**

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority commits to:

* ending modern slavery in all its forms,
* take all possible steps to ensure that incidences of modern slavery do not occur within our supply chains and our spheres of influence; and
* act as an example and point of support for our public and private sector partners as they develop and publish their own modern slavery statements activity to eradicate incidences of modern slavery across Greater Manchester.

To achieve this, an action plan will be developed and implemented over the course of the year, ensuring that as the organisation develops and forms its core policies and procedures, we do so whilst considering our ability to impact and prevent modern slavery existing within ours, and our partner’s spheres of influence.

**Statement review process**

The GMCA will regularly review its Modern Slavery Statement and Action Plan, to ensure that it is both compliant with up to date legislation, guidance, practice and trends.