



## **MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT**

### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of this statement is to support those in our community who may be held in slavery or servitude.

The Council will treat any concern or allegation regarding modern slavery seriously and with immediacy of action, treating victims and those supporting them with dignity and respect.

This policy applies to all Members, employees and those undertaking work on behalf of Godalming Town Council including any consultants, temporary and agency staff.

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Godalming Town Council fully supports and upholds the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, which states that:

*“No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.”*

**The Council understands that modern slavery is real and could be happening in our community.**

The Council is fully committed to the elimination of unlawful trafficking and exploitation of people and recognises that there is no typical victim of slavery. Victims can be men, women and children of all ages and cut across the population, but that it is normally more prevalent amongst the most vulnerable, minority or socially excluded groups. In setting out this statement the Council aims to safeguard and protect the victims.

Godalming Town Council opposes slavery and human trafficking and never knowingly conducts business with partners, contractors, supply chain or employers involved in such practice. Any supplier wishing to conduct business with the Council must fulfil any obligations placed upon them by The Modern Day Slavery Act 2015. Any organisation, corporation, company, employer or individual who provide services to Godalming Town Council or the Godalming Joint Burial Committee who is found to knowingly undertake practices of modern day slavery will have their contract with GTC/JBC immediately terminated.

Godalming Town Council will immediately forward any concerns or allegations made to Councillors or Staff regarding Modern Slavery by using the online reporting system at <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org>.