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## *LiveWest Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2023/2024*

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LiveWest is a leading provider of affordable housing for rent and sale in the Southwest of England, managing over 40,000 properties and providing services to over 70,000 customers. As a responsible business, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of ethical and sustainable practices in all aspects of our operations.

We understand the importance of combating modern slavery and human trafficking, and as such, we have taken extensive measures to ensure that our colleagues, suppliers, contractors, and other stakeholders understand and acknowledge their responsibilities in this regard. We strictly adhere to the principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and our policies and procedures are designed to prevent, detect, and respond to any instances of modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or any part of our business.

### **Recruitment**

Our recruitment and people management systems are robust and ensure that all prospective colleagues are legally entitled to work in the UK, while safeguarding colleagues from any abuse or coercion once in our employment. Our pre-employment checks include work permits, references, and DBS checks where appropriate. We pay at least the national living wage and ensure that overtime working is voluntary and recompensed either as pay or time off. We have a comprehensive Whistleblowing Policy and grievance procedures in place, which empower colleagues to raise concerns regarding any potential instances of modern slavery or human trafficking in our business or supply chains.

### **Training**

We believe in giving our colleagues the right tools and training to identify and combat modern slavery and human trafficking wherever they may encounter them. Our anti-modern slavery eLearning is rolled out to all staff and gives an awareness of modern slavery, and the part colleagues can play in identifying, reporting and reducing modern day slavery practices.

We use our resource hub and SharePoint sites to provide access to staff to other anti-modern slavery resources such as the publications on how to spot county lines and information on the modern slavery helpline.

## **Procurement and Supply Chains**

We take social responsibilities seriously, and we are committed to ensuring that our supply chains are free from modern slavery or human trafficking. Our procurement activities take place in England, and our contractors and suppliers are predominantly UK-based.

We source goods, services, and works for the delivery and maintenance of quality homes, as well as corporate service requirements, from reputable and ethical suppliers. We have clear visibility of our third party supply and works contracts and have trained over sixty colleagues in 2023/24 in new contract management techniques to increase contract performance and transparency. Operating a clear procurement pipeline also allows us to plan and control procurement better, increasing market and risk awareness.

LiveWest's annual expenditure on new property developments, maintenance works, and services exceeds £220m. We are committed to promoting ethical and sustainable practices in all aspects of our operations and supply chains, and we have a zero-tolerance policy towards any instances of modern slavery or human trafficking.

We understand that the procurement process plays a crucial role in ensuring ethical supply chains, which is why we comply fully with the UK Public Contract Regulations 2015 and use the Standard Selection Questionnaire with its strengthened provisions to exclude suppliers who do not address the issues of modern slavery sufficiently. We have incorporated the act's requirements into our key terms and conditions of contract, and we discuss it with them regularly in our supplier meetings.

We also collaborate with national and Southwest Housing Associations in preparation for the implementation of the Procurement Act 2023 by reviewing all our documentation and increasing colleague training in all areas of procurement, including the prevention of Modern Slavery.

As part of our ongoing commitment to combating modern slavery and human trafficking, we will continue to review and update our policies and procedures to ensure that we remain compliant with the principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and promote ethical and sustainable practices throughout our operations and supply chains. To support this aim, we will regularly review our vendor management and approval processes to increase transparency whilst addressing the requirements of the modern Slavery Act 2015.

## **Safeguarding**

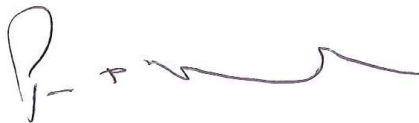
In addition, we have a Safeguarding Policy in place to investigate and report all suspected cases of neglect or abuse, including modern slavery and human trafficking. During visits to our customers regularly to check for signs of modern slavery and human trafficking, as well as any other welfare concerns. When signing up new customers, we undertake a robust process of background and identification checks, and we work closely with local partners and external agencies to identify and tackle tenancy fraud.

We are committed to promoting ethical supply chains and combating modern slavery and human trafficking. We believe that everyone has the right to live and work with dignity and respect, and we will continue to take concrete steps to ensure that this is the case for our suppliers, partners, and customers.

For the purposes of this statement, "LiveWest" refers to the activities of LiveWest Homes Limited a charitable community benefit society, company number: 7724 (Parent) and includes the following subsidiaries:

- Arc Developments South West Limited, company number: 05716836;
- LiveWest Properties Limited, company number: 10110021;
- LiveWest Treasury plc, company number: 06392963;
- Great Western Assured Growth Limited, company number: 02525892;
- Westco Properties Limited, company number: 02677745.

All companies are registered in England & Wales, trading as "LiveWest", with a registered office at: 1 Wellington Way, Skypark, Clyst Honiton, Exeter, EX5 2FZ.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Crawford', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul Crawford Chief Executive

May 2024