



REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE REGARDING ANTI-SEMITISM

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the request from the Secretary of State to the adoption of the current national definition of anti-Semitism.

Background

2. On the 30th January 2017, a letter was received from the Secretary of State requesting Authorities to formally adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of Anti-Semitism.
3. This Authority can be rightly proud of its record on Fairness and Equality issues this includes the rapid rise of the Authority in the Stonewall Equality index. In 2014 this Authority was ranked 301st and in the most recently published index has risen to 51st place. Additionally the work undertaken with the Police and Community safety partners on reducing Hate Crime has been exceptional.
4. It is proposed that rather than simply adopting the definition as suggested by Government that consideration is given to both the Equality Policy and Hate Crime Policy. This will include the work which this Authority does around both these issues and consideration of what changes need to be made not only in relation to Anti-Semitism but also in relation to all protected characteristics. This will ensure that the Authority has in place the most robust, fair and responsive policies necessary.
5. The letter received from the Secretary of State is attached at Appendix 1 and it is considered that this is a definition that can clearly be supported.

Other Options Considered

6. None

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. To inform members of the request from Central Government and the actions proposed as a result.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such

implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- a) notes and supports the definition of anti-Semitism as set out in the Secretary of State's letter of 30th January 2017;
- b) approves further work to be undertaken on the Equality Policy and Hate Crime Policy to ensure they reflect this definition and to consider other changes required to ensure Fairness and Equality about all groups with protected characteristics ;
- c) that a further report recommending any amendments to either Policy is brought back to the committee as soon as possible.

Councillor Alan Rhodes
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments.

Policy Committee is the appropriate body to agree these recommendations.

Financial Comments.

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All