

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE
WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM****Purpose of the Report**

1. For the Council to consider adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.

Information

2. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Right Honourable Robert Jenrick MP has written to the Leader of the Council requesting that the Council adopts the IHRA's working definition of antisemitism to help send a clear message that antisemitic behaviour will not be tolerated.
3. Central Government, which has previously adopted this working definition itself, recognises the valuable role which local authorities have to play in helping to prevent and tackle all forms of hate crime, in partnership with the Police, and to help build resilient and integrated communities.
4. The Secretary of State in his correspondence highlighted the increasing number of antisemitic incidents nationally, recent attacks internationally and the work which the Government has undertaken to combat this issue.
5. The Council is urged to formally adopt the IHRA definition and use it on all appropriate occasions. The definition is not designed to be legally binding but is intended to be used as a tool for public bodies to understand how antisemitism manifests itself in the 21st Century. Public bodies such as the Police and the Crown Prosecution Service reference the definition in guidance to provide examples of the kinds of behaviours which, depending on the circumstances, could constitute antisemitism.
6. The IHRA working definition of antisemitism is as follows:-

‘Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.’

Other Options Considered

7. Not to adopt the IRHA working definition.

Reason for Recommendation

8. To underline the Council's commitment as a public body to helping to tackle antisemitism in all its forms.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, 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, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism as follows:-

'Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.'

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Keith Ford, Team Manager, Democratic Services, Tel: 0115 9772590

Constitutional Comments (SS – 04/02/2020)

10. The Council's adoption of this working definition of antisemitism falls within the remit of Policy Committee.

Financial Comments (NS – 04/02/2020)

11. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

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.

- Correspondence from The Right Honourable Robert Jenrick MP.
- IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All