



CABINET – 7 FEBRUARY 2020

**INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE
DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek agreement for the Council to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism which states that -

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward 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.”

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the IHRA working definition of antisemitism is adopted by Leicestershire County Council.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. Adoption of the IHRA definition will support the Council to deliver the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government has also requested that all Councils in England consider adopting this definition.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. Subject to the Cabinet’s agreement the definition will be adopted by the Council with immediate effect.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. In 2018 Leicestershire County Council, along with other local authorities in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland area, the Police, and the local NHS agreed a Hate Crime Strategy which sets out an approach to tackling all types of hate crime including on religious grounds.

6. The Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan 2018-22 sets out five strategic outcomes for Leicestershire including -
 - 4) *Keeping People Safe*: People in Leicestershire are safe and protected from harm.
 - 5) *Great Communities*: Leicestershire communities are thriving and integrated places where people help and support each other and take pride in their local area.

Resource Implications

7. There are no resources implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

8. None.

Officers to Contact

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PART B

Background

9. The IHRA is an intergovernmental organisation which was established in 1998 with member countries, including the UK, represented by national experts. Its aims are linked to promoting a remembrance of the Holocaust and to provide research and education internationally, with the definition of antisemitism being a part of this strategy.
10. On 25 May 2016 the IHRA adopted the non-binding legal definition set out in paragraph 1 of this report above.
11. In December 2016 the UK Government formally adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism.
12. The definition has been adopted by the Police, Crown Prosecution Service and Judiciary, the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales, and by over 200 local councils.
13. The Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has written to every local authority leader strongly encouraging adoption of the definition.

The Council's Position

14. Hate crime is defined as that which is committed against someone due to their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability. Tackling hate crime is important, not just because of its effect on its victims but because it divides communities.
15. There are robust arrangements in place in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to tackle all forms of hate crime including those perpetrated on religious grounds.

Considerations

16. The majority of local authorities in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland area that have either adopted the IHRA definition or are considering doing so.
17. There is evidence that antisemitic incidents are on the rise. It is considered that the IHRA definition can be a valuable tool in helping the Council and its partners to understand how antisemitism is manifested.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

18. Adoption of the IHRA's definition of antisemitism will assist the Council in meeting public sector equality duties: giving due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and the need to foster good relations between various groups protected on the grounds of race.

Crime and Disorder Implications

19. The adoption of the IHRA definition in addition to existing policies will provide clear standards for the Council's approach to antisemitism and a consistent approach to support its communities.

Background Papers

None.