

CABINET

THURSDAY 19TH MARCH 2020

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE (IHRA) DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

PURPOSE

To consider the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Anti-Semitism

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members approve:

1. The adoption of International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance non-legally binding working definition of anti-Semitism:-

“Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-semitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”

2. That the Council’s Diversity and Equality Policy and Statement be updated to include the definition in the next scheduled revision

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council has received a request from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to consider the adoption of the definition of anti-Semitism as agreed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. The definition has already been adopted by the Government to demonstrate that anti-Semitic behaviour will not be tolerated. The Government recognises that local councils have a valuable role to play in tackling all forms of hate crime.

Whilst the definition is not legally binding all councils have been requested to formally adopt the definition and use it on all appropriate occasions. It is considered to be a useful tool for public authorities to understand how anti-Semitism can manifest itself.

The IHRA identifies that anti-Semitism may take a number of forms in contemporary society which include –

- Making stereotypical or dehumanizing allegations about Jews
- Calling for, aiding or justifying the killing or harming of Jews
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for the actions of the state of Israel
- Using symbols and images associated with anti-Semitism
- Criminal acts are anti-Semitism when the targets of the attack, whether people or property are selected because they are, or are perceived to be Jewish or linked to Jews.
- Anti-Semitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others

The full working definition can be found at

<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not to adopt the definition

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Budget /Resource – there are no direct implications

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Legislation - The Equality Act 2010 sets out the duty to give people from different groups, with identified Protected Characteristics, consistent rights and protection.

The Protected Characteristics covered under the duty are:

- Race
- Gender
- Disability
- Age
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Religion or belief
- Sexual orientation

There is a reputational risk should the Council not respond to the Government's request to adopt the definition.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Equality and Diversity Policy is updated on a regular basis and the IHRA statement will be included in the 2020 review.

BACKGROUND

The Council has adopted a Corporate Diversity and Equality Scheme 2015-2019, Making Equality Real in Tamworth (MERIT) with the following commitments:

- To ensure that the Council does not discriminate against staff or members of the public.
- To work to make Tamworth a place free from discrimination.
- To make people are proud to be who they are.
- To ensure that the contribution of all groups is valued.
- To ensure differences between people are welcomed.
- To remove barriers to ensure that all groups have the same chances of success.
- To provide services that are inclusive and designed to meet customer needs, including those most vulnerable.
- To support anyone who shares the same aims, including community groups, the voluntary sector, trade unions and partner organisations.

The Policy will be reviewed and updated at the next scheduled revision.

Information from the 2011 Census showed that there were 7 people within the district who stated their religion as Judaism.

REPORT AUTHOR

Jo Sands, Assistant Director Partnerships

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

APPENDICES

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