

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
– BUSINESS, INNOVATION, EMPLOYMENT
AND SKILLS CABINET MEMBER**

ADOPTION OF THE IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTI-SEMITISM

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the UK Government's Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of Anti- Semitism.
- 1.2 To recommend that North Lincolnshire Council adopt the IHRA definition.
- 1.3 To consider the application of the definition in the Community Cohesion and strategic and operational work across the council.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council has a statutory duty to promote equality, challenge hate crime and support those who have been a victim of hate incidents.
- 2.2 In December 2016, the Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of Anti-Semitism in doing so the UK Government were the first European Union country to do so.
- 2.3 The definition which is non-legally binding was adopted by the IHRA plenary in Bucharest on the in May 2016. The adopted definition is as follows: ***“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”***
- 2.4 The adoption of the single definition by the Government and other Public Bodies ensures that there is one definition of Anti- Semitism. Jewish People and Institutions have protection under the Hate Crime Legislation as the single definition will make it easier to prosecute offenders. The definition ensures that people who perpetrate Hate Crime do not escape justice because of ill- defined terminology or because different organisations or bodies have different interpretations.

- 2.5 Police Forces already use the IHRA definition and will be supported in their efforts to challenge Hate Crime and Hate Incidents if all public bodies also use the same definition.
- 2.6 The definition will be taken account off in the delivery of our public sector equality duties.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Option 1 – The council will formally adopt the definition of Anti- Semitism as set out by the IHRA and ensure that all working practices, relating to this, follow this definition.

Option 2- The council does not adopt the definition and continues work with the existing definition.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 4.1 Any required resources will be met from existing budgets
- 4.2 Any required changes or actions will be implemented using existing staffing.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17-CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 5.1 The implementation of any actions or documentation in relation to the change of definition will be developed to be compatible with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and our duties within this to promote equality as a public body.
- 5.2 The adoption of the new definition contributes to the delivery of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act through the delivery of Third Party Reporting for Hate Incidents and in the assistance in Hate Crime investigations.

6. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Government consulted widely with relevant religious and faith groups as part of the national adoption process.
- 6.2 Discussions have also taken place with the Diversity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Adviser, North Lincolnshire Council as well as the Community Cohesion Officer at Humberside Police.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that –

- 7.1 The adoption of the IHRA Definition on Anti-Semitism be approved and applied across community cohesion and the strategic and operational wider work of the council.
- 7.2 Further reports on implementation of any subsequent changes required as result of the adoption be received.

HEAD OF PAID SERVICE AND
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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: IHRA Guidance 2016.