



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 2nd March, 2020

To: Glyn Jones, Deputy Mayor

ADOPTION OF THE IHRA DEFINITION OF ANTI-SEMITISM

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Mayor	All	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to agree the adoption of the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition of Anti-Semitism and to instruct that any relevant Council policies be amended to incorporate the definition.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. No

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That Doncaster Council formally adopt the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism (attached at Appendix A) and amend any relevant policies to incorporate the definition.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The adoption of the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism sends a clear message of the Council's abhorrence of Anti-Semitism and discrimination of all kinds.

BACKGROUND

5.

Doncaster Council has a long history of promoting equalities and has agreed processes dealing with all Hate Crimes. The Council also marks the annual Holocaust Memorial Day with well-attended events. To date however the Council has not formally adopted the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism and now intends to do so.

Members of the Jewish community in the UK consider that the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism is the appropriate definition to use

In December 2016, the UK Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism, the first country in Europe to do so.

In May 2017, the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government wrote to local authorities asking them to adopt the working definition of anti-Semitism - at the time some council's adopted the definition. Further correspondence from the now Secretary of State Robert Jenrick has followed requesting an update on progress and in January 2020 the Secretary of State announced in Parliament that he would shortly be instructing all Local Authorities to adopt the definition "forthwith"

The Council continues to work closely with its partners in the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership to tackle all hate crimes and incidents, to ensure our collective resources are utilised to maximum benefit and to promote a Borough that embraces difference and challenges hatred.

Although there has been a rise in Ani-Semitism across Europe, thankfully reported incidents in Doncaster are very low. By adopting the definition, the Council is sending a message that Anti-Semitism will not be tolerated in our Borough.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6. (i) Adopt the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism and incorporate that definition into any relevant policies (Recommended)
- (ii) Do not adopt the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism or incorporate that definition into any relevant policies (not recommended for the reasons set out in this report)

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

7. It is considered good practice for Local authorities to adopt the IHRA definition.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

8.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>The adoption of the IHRA definition will strengthen the Council's ability to reduce the prevalence of Hate Crime.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	
	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	

	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>The adoption of the IHRA definition will promote community resilience</p>
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RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

9. Adopting the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism is in line with the Council's desire to promote the importance of equalities and reduce hate Crime. Adopting the definition is also in line with the requirements of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials HW Date 30/1/20]

10. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (the so called "general power of competence) provides that a Local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally may do. The Equality Act 2010 sets out the obligations in relation to the prevention of, amongst other characteristics, discrimination on the grounds of race or religious beliefs. Whilst the definition is, legally non-binding it is seen as an important tool for criminal justice agencies and other public bodies to ensure the principles in the Equality Act 2010 are promoted which is achieved by adopting the definition and embedding it within policies as required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [AT 31/01/2020]

11. There are no specific implications attached to this decision. Any costs from amending policies that arise from adopting the definition will be funded from existing budgets.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS [Officer SJ Date 30.1.20]

12. The Council complies with the provisions in the Equality Act 2010 and as an inclusive employer, values diversity and does not tolerate any prejudice or discrimination on any grounds. The Council also adheres to the duty on public authorities contained in the Equality Act 2010 and due regard is applied and legitimately considered when carrying out public functions to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance

equality of opportunity and foster good relations with regards to the nine protected characteristics.

The Council makes specific reference to equality and diversity in its employee code of conduct based on this broader requirement and requires all employees to:

- Act in accordance with the diversity policies and show respect and consideration for others at all times;
- Deal with and record or report complaints;
- Either challenge inappropriate behaviour and practice, or bring such behaviour to the attention of a manager;
- Participate in agreed diversity training and development.

A review will need to be undertaken of the relevant HR policies and the IHRA definition included where appropriate.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SRF Date 30/01/20]

13. If the Council adopts the adoption of the definition this will add value to our existing commitment to Equality and Diversity and help contribute to the Councils compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and its Public Sector Equality Duty, particular in relation to those that come under the Race, Religion and Belief Protected Characteristics.

CONSULTATION

14. Discussions have been held with the Council's Assistant Director of HR and Communications and the DMBC Head of Community Safety

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. None

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APPENDIX A

“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.”

the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.

- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.