



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 16th February 2021

To: Glyn Jones, Deputy Mayor

ADOPTION OF THE ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP (APPG) ON BRITISH MUSLIMS DEFINITION OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to agree the adoption by the Council of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims definition of Islamophobia and to instruct that the any relevant Council policies be amended to incorporate the definition.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. No

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That Doncaster Council formally adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims definition of Islamophobia (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 definition of Islamophobia sends a clear message of the Council's abhorrence of Islamophobia 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. In March 2020 the Council agreed to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of Anti-semitism and to amend relevant Council policies to include the definition. Sheffield City Region did likewise and has also agreed to adopt the proposed definition of Islamophobia and this Council considers that it is an appropriate step to do the same.

Incidents of Islamophobia have been increasing across the UK and agreeing to adopt the definition will send a powerful message that the Council supports those affected by Islamophobia and that it does not tolerate discrimination in any form.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6. (i) Adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group On British Muslims definition of Islamophobia and incorporate that definition into any relevant policies (Recommended)
- (ii) Do not adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group On British Muslims definition of Islamophobia or incorporate that definition into any relevant policies (not recommended for the reasons set out in this report)

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

7. It would be good practice for the Council to adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group On British Muslims definition of Islamophobia and in so doing make a powerful statement about the Council's views on racial and religious intolerance.

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</p>	<p>The adoption of a definition of Islamophobia will strengthen the Council's ability to reduce the prevalence of Hate Crime.</p>

	<p>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>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 a definition of Islamophobia will promote community resilience</p>

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RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

9. Adopting the All-Party Parliamentary Group On British Muslims definition of Islamophobia is in line with the Council's desire to promote the importance of equalities and reduce hate Crime.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials NC Date 11/2/21]

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 [PH 11/02/2021]

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 CB Date 10.2.21]

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 APPG definition included where appropriate.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials...PW..... Date...15/02/21]

13. There are no specific technology implications associated with this decision.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials RS Date 15/02/21]

14. Racism in whatever form has direct and indirect impacts on health. Adopting and incorporating the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims definition of Islamophobia into any relevant policies is an important step in addressing structural racism.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials SRF Date 11/02/21]

15. 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

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17. None

GLOSSARY

APPG - All-Party Parliamentary Group

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APPENDIX A

All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims Definition of Islamophobia

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims was established on 18 July 2017 to build on the work of the APPG on Islamophobia, but with a wider remit to examine a broad range of issues that British Muslims care about, and are affected by.

Following two years of consultation, on 27th November 2018, the APPG on British Muslims published a report titled "Islamophobia Defined: the inquiry into a working definition of Islamophobia."

This report contained the following definition:

"Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness."

Contemporary examples of Islamophobia in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in encounters between religions and non-religions in the public sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, instigating or justifying the killing or harming of Muslims in the name of a racist/ fascist ideology, or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims as such, or of Muslims as a collective group, such as, especially but not exclusively, conspiracies about Muslim entryism in politics, government or other societal institutions; the myth of Muslim identity having a unique propensity for terrorism, and claims of a demographic 'threat' posed by Muslims or of a 'Muslim takeover'.
- Accusing Muslims as a group of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or group of Muslim individuals, or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.
- Accusing Muslims as a group, or Muslim majority states, of inventing or exaggerating Islamophobia, ethnic cleansing or genocide perpetrated against Muslims.
- Accusing Muslim citizens of being more loyal to the 'Ummah' (transnational Muslim community) or to their countries of origin, or to the alleged priorities of Muslims worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying Muslim populations the right to self-determination e.g., by claiming that the existence of an independent Palestine or Kashmir is a terrorist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of Muslims behaviours that are not expected or demanded of any other groups in society, eg loyalty tests.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic Islamophobia (e.g. Muhammed being a paedophile, claims of Muslims spreading Islam by the sword or subjugating "Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness." minority groups under their rule) to characterize Muslims as being 'sex groomers', inherently violent or incapable of living harmoniously in plural societies.

- Holding Muslims collectively responsible for the actions of any Muslim majority state, whether secular or constitutionally Islamic.