

Racism, Islamophobia and Antisemitism Motion

The Elected Members of this Council note that:

This Council, collectively and individually, recognises that Councillors are elected to represent ALL members of the diverse communities we serve.

This Council recognises that there have been examples of racism including Antisemitism and Islamophobia in some national political discourse and in some local political discourse across the country.

As such, we also note that some individuals engaged in national or local political activity may harbour and express views that are contrary to The Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

The Elected Members of this Council therefore believe that:

All elected representatives and those seeking public office should be expected to adhere to and demonstrate higher standards of conduct in accordance with the Nolan Principles, our code of conduct and the equality duty.

All elected representatives and those seeking public office should publicly pledge to speak out without fear or favour and challenge racism in any form including Antisemitism and Islamophobia wherever they encounter it.

The Elected members of this Council will therefore:

Work collectively as a council to challenge and eradicate racism and all forms of prejudice wherever we encounter it, both publicly and privately.

Challenge all forms of the promotion of racism including Antisemitism and Islamophobia in all political discourse regardless of an individual's political affiliation.

Ensure that all elected representatives and those seeking public office are clear about their responsibilities and adherence to The Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (see supporting information) and, by supporting this motion via a named vote, publicly restate their personal commitment to this Duty

Individually and collectively commit to not remain silent, and to take immediate action when we encounter any person engaged in political activity who expresses or endorses racist views including Antisemitism and Islamophobia, regardless of their political affiliation, role or status.

That the Leaders of each political Group within this Council write a joint letter endorsing this collective commitment and that this letter be published on the council website and in the

local press for residents to read. Where applicable, this letter will also be sent by each leader to their respective national and local Party associations.

Proposer: Cllr Tony Kearon

Seconder: This motion will be seconded from the floor – to allow members of all parties the opportunity to second the motion if they wish.

Supporting information:

On 5 April 2011, the public sector equality duty came into force under the Equality Act 2010. The equality duty places an obligation on public authorities to positively promote equality, not merely to avoid discrimination.

Public authorities subject to the equality duty must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to address three key aims:

Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.

Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The equality duty covers the nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.