

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S
REPORT TO**

Council
16 December 2020

Report Title: Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Anti-Semitism.

Submitted by: Leader of the Council

Portfolios: Corporate and Service Improvement, People and Partnerships

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To ask Council to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Anti-Semitism.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Anti-Semitism.

Reasons

In recognition of the reasons behind the Government's adoption of the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism.

1. **Background**

1.1 A report was presented to Cabinet on 14 October 2020 through which Cabinet expressed its support for the adoption of the IHRA definition. Cabinet and asked for a report to be taken to Council inviting Council to endorse the inclusion of that definition in the Council's policies and practices. Further information is contained in the 14 October 2020 Cabinet report appended hereto.

2. **Issues**

2.1 The IHRA describes itself as the only intergovernmental organisation mandated to focus solely on Holocaust-related issues, which has resolved to take a leading role in combatting anti-Semitism. It defines anti-Semitism as follows:-

"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."

2.2 The IHRA considers that the adoption of this definition sets an example of responsible conduct and provides an important tool with practical applicability in tackling anti-Semitism.

2.3 Further information and resources are available from the IHRA here:-

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

2.4 The Council's public sector equality duties already embrace a requirement to:-

- 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.

Which embraces Judaism as a race, religion or beliefs amongst the "protected characteristics" covered by the equality duty.

2.5 Nevertheless, adopting the IHRA definition assists in providing a practical tool to assist in focusing on issues of anti-Semitism when considering the public sector equality duty in the round in policy formation and decision making.

3. **Proposal**

3.1 That Council adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Anti-Semitism.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 Set out above.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 N/A

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 Set out in the body of the report.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 Equality issues are set out in the body of the report.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 None identified.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 None identified.

10. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

10.1 None identified.

11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 N/A

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 Cabinet Resolution 14 October 2020.

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Cabinet Resolution 14 October 2020.

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 Cabinet Resolution 14 October 2020.