

Meeting: Council

Date: 6 April 2017

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Anti-Semitism

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? immediately

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1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 In December 2016, the Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Anti-Semitism as set out in Appendix 2. The definition, although legally non-binding is an important tool for public bodies to understand how anti-Semitism manifests itself in the 21st century, as it gives examples of the kind of behaviours which depending on circumstances could constitute anti-Semitism.
- 1.2 The Government is encouraging local authorities to formally adopt the definition and consider its application in their own authorities.
- 1.3 The Council's Policy Framework includes the Equalities Objectives which was adopted in order to meet the General Duty of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

2. Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 To enable the Council to adopt the definition of Anti-Semitism and incorporate it within its Equalities Objectives which supports the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the following be incorporated into the introduction of the Council's Equality Objectives:

"Subsequent to these equalities objectives being agreed and published the Government has adopted International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Anti-Semitism and has requested the Council to consider adopting this and how it could be applied by the Council.

The Council has agreed to adopt the following working definition of Anti-Semitism:

“Anti-Semitism 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.”

However, the Council actively supports and promotes the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty in relation to all communities living in Torbay regardless of their faith.”

Background

<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/council/policies/corporate/equalities/> - Equality Objectives

Appendix 1 Letter from Government on Adoption of the IHRA Working Definition of Anti-Semitism

Appendix 2 IHRA Definition of Anti-Semitism