

## BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORE SERVICES TO FULL COUNCIL ON 6 FEBRUARY 2020

#### ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

##### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider the adoption by the Council of the HRA working definition of Anti-Semitism.

##### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

##### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Local authorities across the country are increasingly taking a stand against prejudice as part of their commitment to promote equality and develop inclusive and cohesive communities.

- 3.2 The Community Security Trust is the leading organisation monitoring and supporting victims of Anti-Semitism. The Trust report on Anti-Semitic incident during the first six months of 2019 showed the highest total on record over a six month period with over 100 incidents a month for the third year running. These statistics are clearly a cause for concern.

- 3.3 By adopting a recognised definition of antisemitism the Council will be demonstrating its commitment to tackling racist and religious hatred and all forms of discrimination.

- 3.4 The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance is an intergovernmental body established in Stockholm in 1998. It comprises more than 30 member nations whose purpose is to secure the support of political and social leaders for the need for Holocaust remembrance education and research.

##### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The working definition of Anti-Semitism as defined by the IHRA is as follows:

**“Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of Anti-Semitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious families”**

- 4.2 The definition is not designed to be legally binding but it can be viewed as an invaluable tool for local authorities and other public bodies to understand how antisemitism manifests itself. The definition is used as guidance for the Police and Crown Prosecution Service.
- 4.3 Local authorities have progressively adopted the definition and the Secretary of State has encouraged every local authority to do take steps to do so. It has been adopted by the UK Government several Combined Authorities including the Sheffield City Region and more than 130 local authorities. Such an approach provides a strong gesture of support to our Jewish communities that their concerns are recognised and understood and assurance to all our communities that Anti-Semitic behaviour and discrimination will not be tolerated.

## **5. PROPOSAL**

- 5.1 That the Council adopts the IHRA working definition of Anti-Semitism.**

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

ILAH publication the Working Definition of Anti-Semitism  
Correspondence with Department of Communities and Local Government

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk) so that appropriate arrangements can be made

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