

Key Decision Required:	No	In the Forward Plan:	No
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**PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PARTNERSHIPS
17 MARCH 2020**

REPORT OF HEAD OF PEOPLE, PERFORMANCE & PROJECTS

A.1 ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE'S WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM.

(Report prepared by Alison Rowlands)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek Management Team approval, prior to the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships' agreement to the adoption, at local authority level, of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), is an inter-governmental body that unites governments and experts to strengthen, advance and promote Holocaust education, research and remembrance and to uphold the commitments in the 2000 Stockholm Declaration.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland (UK) has been a member of the IHRA since it was founded in 1998.

On 26 May 2016 in Bucharest, Romania, the Plenary of the IHRA adopted the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism :-

“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.”

The definition, although not legally binding, is an important tool for public bodies to understand how antisemitism manifests itself in the 21st century, as it gives examples of the kind of behaviours which can constitute antisemitism. The UK Government adopted the IHRA definition in December 2016 and in October 2019, Tendring District Council received an official request from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to formally adopt the IHRA's non-legally binding definition of antisemitism.

The Community Security Trust is the leading organisation monitoring and supporting victims of antisemitism in the UK. The Trust's report on antisemitic incidents 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 consecutive year.

As a measure that supports the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010, and its responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty, the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism will contribute to the Council's approach to promoting equality and meeting its equality duties to the public, residents, contractors/suppliers and staff.

In addition, the Council will develop and publish an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and incorporate a commitment to opposing antisemitism into any and all relevant policies.

There is a clear steer from central government for local authorities to adopt the definition in their work. Once formally adopted, it is proposed that the Council write to the Secretary of State and any local Jewish institutions to inform them of the Council's actions.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that:

- (a) That the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships approve the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism;
- (b) That the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships formally requests that the definition is included in any future policy updates and working practices to reflect the Council's adoption of the working definition of antisemitism.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

Adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism would be consistent with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and the following values set out in both the existing and the emerging Corporate Plans, i.e.

- Councillors and all employees uphold **personal integrity, honesty** and **respect** for others
- Recognising the diversity and **equality** of individuals

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

There are no financial implications or risks identified in respect of this report.

LEGAL

Whilst the IHRA definition of antisemitism is not legally binding, its adoption will support the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010, and its responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty, to demonstrate due regard and 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.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities / Area or Ward affected / Consultation/Public Engagement.

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

ANASTASIA SIMPSON

HEAD OF PEOPLE, PERFORMANCE AND PROJECTS