

 <b>Executive - 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b>  <h1 style="text-align: center;">10</h1>
<b>Title</b>	Adopting a Definition of Anti-Semitism	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Chris Elliott 01926 456003 <a href="mailto:chris.elliott@warwickdc.gov.uk">chris.elliott@warwickdc.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	N/A	
<b>Background Papers</b>	N/A	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	No

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	21.01.20	Chris Elliott, Andrew Jones, Bill Hunt
Head of Cultural Services	21.01.20	Marianne Rolfe; Tracy Dolphin
Section 151 Officer	21.01.20	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	21.01.20	Andrew Jones
Finance	21.01.20	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	27.01.20	Cllr Andrew Day; Judith Falp
<b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>		
N/A		
<b>Final Decision?</b>		Yes
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks Executive approval to agree to adopt the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism as part of the Council's and the wider Community Safety Partnership's Strategy relating to Hate Crime.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Executive adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism attached at Appendix 1.

## 3. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1 Regrettably anti-Semitism has seen resurgence in the wider community in the UK and elsewhere as part of a growing phenomena of Hate Crime. All Local Authorities have been requested by the Government to account for their position in relation to the definition of Anti-Semitism.
- 3.2 Anti-Semitism is a prejudice that should be actively opposed by the Council, especially given that 2020 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of the first concentration camps at the end of World War 2. Whilst the Council has not, thankfully, experienced such activity in relation to its services and activities and has not up to now felt the need to adopt any formal definition of Anti-Semitism, it is felt that the Council should make its stance absolutely clear by formally agreeing the widely acknowledged definition of anti-Semitism produced by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), based in Stockholm, attached at Appendix 1 and the Government be informed accordingly. This is approach consistent with the Council's stated values.

## 4. Fit for the Future (FFF)

The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things, the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal, if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

<b>FFF Strands</b>		
<b>People</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Money</b>
<b>External</b>		
<b>Health, Homes, Communities</b>	<b>Green, Clean, Safe</b>	<b>Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment</b>
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all. Housing needs for all Met. Impressive cultural and sports activities.  Cohesive and active communities.	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces. All communities have access to decent open space. Improved air quality. Low levels of crime and ASB.	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy. Vibrant town centres. Improved performance/ productivity of local economy. Increased employment and income levels.

<b>Impacts of Proposal</b>		
The policy is relevant to all aspects of the Council's intended policy outcomes.		
<b>Internal</b>		
<b>Effective Staff</b>	<b>Maintain or Improve Services</b>	<b>Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term</b>
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained. All staff have the appropriate tools. All staff are engaged, empowered and supported. The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours.	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs. Continuously improve our processes. Increase the digital provision of services.	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets.
<b>Impacts of Proposal</b>		
The policy is relevant to all aspects of the Council's intended policy outcomes.		

#### 4.1 Supporting Strategies

Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and this is relevant to the Council's and the Community Safety Partnership's Strategy of which it is part relating to Hate Crime. It is also relevant and consistent with the Council's values.

#### 4.2 Changes to Strategies

This proposal does represent a new Council policy but sets out a definition which can be used in the context of Hate Crimes and discrimination.

#### 5. Budgetary Framework

5.1 There are no budgetary implications.

#### 6. Risk

6.1 There maybe a risk around damage to reputation if the Executive does not adopt the statement.

#### 7. Alternative Option(s) considered

7.1 The Executive could decide not to adopt the statement but this would infer that it does wish to support steps against antisemitism.

7.2 The IHRA's definition is the accepted international definition of anti-Semitism and whilst other organisations have attempted to find alternative definitions this has either proved elusive or has created more anxiety amongst the Jewish community. The definition referred to was adopted by the UK Government in 2016.

## Appendix 1

### Extract from the IHRA website.

In the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration that states: "With humanity still scarred by ...antisemitism and xenophobia the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils" the committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial called the IHRA Plenary in Budapest 2015 to adopt the following working definition of antisemitism.

On 26 May 2016, the Plenary in Bucharest decided to:

**Adopt 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."**

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for "why things go wrong." It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

**Antisemitic acts are criminal** when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

**Criminal acts are antisemitic** when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

**Antisemitic discrimination** is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.