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| Council | Tuesday, 05 September 2017 | Matter for Information and Decision |
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Title: **Proposed Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Anti-Semitism**

Author(s): **Mark Hall (Chief Executive)**

1. Introduction

This report asks Members to consider formally adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism.

2. Recommendation(s)

That Members debate formally adopting the IHRA's working definition of anti-semitism with a view to consider its application in all working areas of the Council.

3. Information

- 3.1. In letter addressed to all local authority leaders, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for (the Department of) Communities and Local Government invited all leaders to formally adopt the IHRA's working definition of anti-Semitism and to consider its application in each authority. A copy of this letter is attached at **Appendix 1** and the full text of the definition is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.2. In summary, the IHRA is an 'intergovernmental body whose purpose is to place political and social leaders' support behind the need for Holocaust education, remembrance and research both nationally and internationally'.¹
- 3.3. In considering the Secretary's invitation, Members are asked to provide direction and policy guidance to Officers as to whether, for example, the Council should either:
 - (i) formally adopt the working definition into existing policy documents;
 - (ii) formulate its own all-encompassing definition to address all manifestations of discrimination and hate crime, including anti-Semitism; or
 - (iii) decide not formally adopt the working definition and simply note the same.
- 3.4. It is understood that other Borough and District Councils in Leicester/shire are considering option (i) and that the subject has also been discussed at meetings of the Leicestershire Equalities Forum at which this Council is represented. Council may also be minded to refer the matter to this its own Community Engagement Forum.

Background Documents:

Letter to Local Authority Leaders dated 30 January 2017 (Appendix 1)
IHRA's Working Definition of Anti-Semitism (Press Release Document) (Appendix 2)

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¹ IHRA , 'About Us' <www.holocaustremembrance.com/about-us> accessed 24 August 2017

| Implications Proposed Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Anti-Semitism | |
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| Finance | There are no financial implications. |
| Chris Raymakers Head of Finance, Revenues, and Benefits. | |
| Legal | The adoption of the working definition is not mandatory and, if adopted, is non-legally binding. |
| Anne Court Director of Services / Monitoring Officer | |
| Corporate Risk(s) (CR) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Corporate Risk(s) Identified |
| Mark Hall Chief Executive | |
| Corporate Priorities (CP) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Inclusive and Engaged Borough (CP1) |
| Mark Hall Chief Executive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wellbeing for All (CP5) |
| Vision & Values (V) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "A Strong Borough Together" (Vision) |
| Mark Hall Chief Executive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Respect (V2) |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teamwork (V3) |
| Equalities & Equality Assessment(s) (EA) | The formal adoption of the working definition, as a measure of good practice, would have a positive impact on community cohesion and our commemoration annually on Holocaust Memorial Day. It will also place this Council at the forefront of being proactive in supporting fairness and diversity. |
| Veronika Quintyne Community Engagement Officer | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable (EA) |