

North Tyneside Council Report to Council 27 September 2018

ITEM 5

Motions

Notice has been received of the following motions from Members of the Council to be put to the Council meeting.

1. Motion signed by Councillors Elected Mayor, B Pickard and C Burdis

The Cabinet adopted a new Equality and Diversity Policy on the 10th April 2017. Since then there has been an annual review, the latest being 30th June 2018. Since this review and in light of recent media coverage of antisemitism, I have been contacted by residents and representatives of North Tyneside Council's Holocaust Memorial Day Committee to ask if the Authority will sign up to the non-legally binding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Antisemitism, and the supporting guidelines.

I requested that the officers review our policy and advise how we could give assurances that we totally opposed Antisemitism. As a result of my review, I will be asking Cabinet at its next meeting to amend our Equality and Diversity Policy to include the IHRA definition and supporting guidelines (as set out below). Although alterations to this policy are an executive function I am asking the Council Meeting to endorse this action so that we can present a unified position that we will not tolerate Antisemitism.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Antisemitism and supporting guidelines:

"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."

- 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.

Financial Implications

There are no foreseen financial implications.

Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications for the Authority arising from this motion.

2. Motion signed by Councillors S Brockbank, E Hodson and J Wallace

ADOPTION OF IHRA DEFINITION OF ANTI-SEMITISM BY NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL.

This Council notes with alarm the conduct of the debate around the rise in anti-Semitism in national and local politics. This includes incidents when criticism of Israel has been expressed using anti-Semitic tropes.

The Council notes with concern the attempt by the Leader of the Labour Party to introduce caveats into their acceptance of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism to allow members to identify the state of Israel as racist in nature.

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

We regret that the Elected Mayor has been unable to make a public statement explicitly supporting the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism and commit to its eradication across the Council and the Borough, as promised annually on Holocaust Memorial Days.

This Council resolves to request the Cabinet to:

- 1) Explicitly endorse and accept the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism with all forms of anti-Semitism identified within the Council being subject to disciplinary procedures.
- 2) To challenge all forms of anti-Semitism and notes that North Tyneside is a Borough committed to challenging all forms of racist abuse.

Financial Implications

There are no foreseen financial implications.

Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications for the Authority arising from this motion.