

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL**

**7 February 2018**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Commissioning,  
Communities and Policy**

**ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE  
ALLIANCE WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTI-SEMITISM**

**1. Purpose of the report**

To note the adoption of the working definition of anti-Semitism and to set out the next steps for the Council.

**2. Information and Analysis**

**Background**

In December 2016, the Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of anti-Semitism, the first country in Europe to do so. The definition, although not legally binding, is an important tool for public bodies to understand how anti-Semitism manifests itself in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as it gives examples of the kind of behaviours which can constitute anti-Semitism.

The definition states:

*“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 facilities.”*

In May 2017, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government wrote to local authorities asking them to adopt the working definition of anti-Semitism, which a number of Councils have now adopted.

There have recently been more incidences of anti-Semitism which continues to be a problem in the UK. Although Derbyshire does not have an easily identifiable Jewish community like cities such as Manchester, Leeds, or London, Jewish people living in Derbyshire can and do experience anti-Semitism and hate crime. The small size of the Jewish community within Derbyshire makes it potentially more vulnerable to acts of anti-Semitism.

At its meeting of 11 January 2018, Cabinet agreed to adopt the working definition and the next steps set out below.

### **Next Steps**

In order to support the Council's adoption of the working definition of anti-Semitism, the Council will incorporate a commitment to opposing anti-Semitism into relevant policies and give consideration to this in the delivery of their services, taking appropriate action to challenge and raise awareness in relation to this form of hatred.

In addition, the equality and diversity pages on the Council's website will be updated to record support for the definition and a press release will be issued to notify the general public.

Once formally adopted, it is proposed that the Council will write to the Secretary of State and local Jewish institutions to inform them of the Council's actions.

### **3. Equality Considerations**

The implementation of any actions in relation to the Council's adoption of the definition will be developed to be compatible with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and our duties within this to promote equality as a public body.

### **4. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

### **5. Officer Recommendations**

To note the adoption of the working definition of anti-Semitism and the next steps as set out above.

**Emma Alexander**  
**Strategic Director for Commissioning, Communities and Policy**