
EXTRAORDINARY POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**MINUTES**

Of a virtual/remote meeting held on 1 September 2020 between 7.00pm and 7.21pm

Councillors present:

Sarah Nelmes (Chair) (Local Plan)
Matthew Bedford (Vice-Chair) Resources
and Shared Services)
Stephen Cox
Steve Drury (Infrastructure & Planning
Policy)
Alex Hayward
Paula Hiscocks
Stephen Giles-Medhurst
(Transport and Economic Development)

Chris Lloyd (Leisure)
Andrew Scarth (Housing)
Reena Ranger
Roger Seabourne (Community Safety and
Partnerships)
Alison Wall
Phil Williams (Lead Member for
Environmental Services & Sustainability)

Others Councillors in attendance:

Joanna Clemens
Debbie Morris
Peter Getkahn
Joy Mann
Alex Michaels

Officers Present: Joanne Wagstaffe, Chief Executive
Geof Muggeridge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
Rebecca Young, Acting Head of Community Partnerships
James Baldwin, Deputy Monitoring Officer
Sarah Haythorpe, Principal Committee Manager

PR29/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

PR30/20 NOTICE OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

PR31/20 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none declared.

POLICY**PR32/20 TO RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EQUALITIES SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 AUGUST 2020**

Minute ESC07/20 to Adopt the Anti-Semitism Definition.

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst advised that the Equalities Sub-Committee had approved the IHRA definition and had made the formal recommendation to Policy and Resources Committee to adopt the definition as follows:

“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”.

He moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes that the definition be recommended to Council to be adopted. He advised that approval had been agreed unanimously at the Equalities sub-committee meeting.

A Member outside the Committee expressed some concerns around some apologies which had been made to members of the community, local democracy, democratic process, pre-determination and impartiality of Councillors.

The Chair advised that she had apologised in the previous meeting for any upset that may have been caused to sectors of the community. There had been upset which was why they had apologised and it was not felt that this had gone against any democracy and as pointed out the voting was unanimous. The Equalities Objective and the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to look to all sectors of the Communities and to not treat them all identically but to look for the help they need.

The Labour Group were happy with the recommendation and would have voted for it in July 2019 but were concerned at the amount of time it had taken to reach this position and hoped the motion would now be passed.

A Member wanted clarification that the examples attached to the report to the Equalities Sub-Committee would also be incorporated into the adoption of the definition and if not what was their status? The Chair advised that the adoption was of the definition.

A Member added that it was important to adopt the definition this evening, over 260 Councils in the country had adopted this for very good reasons.

In accordance with the Council's Committee virtual meeting protocol which sits alongside the Council Procedure Rules a member of the public spoke on the Anti-Semitism Definition.

On being put to the Committee the recommendation was declared CARRIED by the Chair, the voting being unanimous.

RECOMMEND:

That Policy and Resources Committee recommends the IHRA definition and makes formal recommendation to Council to adopt the definition as follows:

“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”.

PR33/20 ISLAMAPHOBIA DEFINITION

Minute ESC08/20 to adopt the definition of Islamophobia

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst advised that the Equality Sub-Committee had approved the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) supported definition of Islamophobia being:

'Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness'.

The sub Committee however did not endorse the overall content of the 'Islamophobia Defined' report that definition stems from.

The sub-committee recommends that the Council:
Continue to prioritise tackling hate crime and Islamophobia in partnership work with all stakeholder to listen to their concerns and develop policies that will continue to ensure we live in an inclusive District through task and finish groups and consultation.

This definition was fully supported and was in line with the Council's Equality Policy and was an agreed definition by the largest number of Muslim Groups within the United Kingdom and was supported by a number of political parties and other Councils. He moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes that the definition be recommended to Council for adoption.

In accordance with the Council's Committee virtual meeting protocol which sits alongside the Council Procedure Rules a member of the public spoke against the adoption of the Definition.

The Chair advised that the Equalities Sub-Committee would be looking at other faiths to ensure all faiths within the community had protection.

The Committee were advised that members of the public were not able to speak at the immediately following Extraordinary Council Meeting.

On being put to the Committee the recommendation was declared CARRIED by the Chair, the voting being 9 For and 4 Abstentions.

RECOMMEND:

To Council to adopt the recommendation as below:

The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) supported definition of Islamophobia is:

'Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness'.

The sub Committee however does not endorse the overall content of 'Islamophobia Defined' report that definition stems from.

That the Council will:
Continue to prioritise tackling hate crime and Islamophobia in partnership work with all stakeholder to listen to their concerns and develop policies that will continue to ensure we live in an inclusive District through task and finish groups and consultation.

CHAIR