

# Surrey Heath Borough Council

## Executive

16<sup>th</sup> August 2022

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### Adoption of the Working Definition of Anti-Semitism (IHRA)

<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cllr Sarah Jane Croke – Housing, Safeguarding & Support
<b>Strategic Director/Head of Service</b>	Louise Livingston
<b>Report Author:</b>	Jayne Boitout - Community Partnership Officer
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Date Portfolio Holder signed off the report</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All

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#### Summary and purpose

The Executive is asked to consider recommending the adoption of the Working Definition of Anti-Semitism (IHRA), as agreed by the Members Equality Working Group, at the next Full Council meeting.

#### Recommendation

The Executive is advised to RECOMMEND to Full Council that the Working Definition of Anti-Semitism (IHRA) and other minority groups as agreed by the Members Equality Working Group at the next full Council meeting be adopted.

#### 1. Background and Supporting Information

- 1.1 The Council takes responsibility to ensure that equality is integrated into both the service delivery and employment practices of the authority. We are proud to inclusively recognise equality and accessibility as an integral part of our working approach and this is led by both a staff and Member Equality Working Group.
- 1.2 At the Member Equality Working group meeting on the 29th June 2022 its members resolved that it be recommended that the Executive recommends to Full Council the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism, as this enhances the Councils ethos in supporting multiculturalism and diversity within the Borough.

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards 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.”

- 1.3 The Working Group confirmed their continued support of the definition and it was noted that this was part of a broader recognition of support of multiculturalism and diversity in the borough and this is supported through the Equality Strategy and annual plan.

## **2. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 2.1 This recommendation demonstrates the Council commitment in continuing to embed equality and diversity in our employment practices and service delivery. The Council and partners work to prevent discrimination, harassment, and victimisation and to recognise the diversity of need within the local community and the need to ensure fair and equitable treatment.

## **3. Proposal and Alternative Options**

- 3.1 The Council has the option to
  - 3.1.1 Support the adoption as set-out within the proposals.
  - 3.1.2 Amendment the adoption proposal.
  - 3.1.3 Not to accept the request for adoption.
- 3.2 It is suggested to approve as outlined in 3.1.1 above.

## **4. Contribution to the Council’s Five Year Strategy**

- 4.1 Equality has strong links to the Health and Quality of Life section and work towards nurturing the strong sense of community across the whole borough, fostering a sense of respect and consideration, and it enables a positive approach to supporting all sectors of our community, including those who are most vulnerable, and where possible promote active and healthy lives for all and a rich programme of cultural and community events.

## **5. Resource Implications**

- 5.1 The Council has over many years worked hard to establish and retain strong links to community and voluntary organisations which they work in partnership with and or can perform functions on the Council’s behalf.

## **6. Section 151 Officer Comments:**

- 6.1 No matters arising.

## **7. Legal and Governance Issues**

7.1 To be confirmed.

**8. Monitoring Officer Comments:**

8.1 Insert MO's comments

**9. Other Considerations and Impacts**

**Environment and Climate Change**

9.1 No matters arising.

**Equalities and Human Rights**

9.2 Addresses elsewhere in the report.

**Risk Management**

9.3 No matters arising.

**Community Engagement**

9.4 No matters arising.

**Annexes**

Annex A – IHRA Additional Information

**Background Papers – none**