



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Definition of Anti Semitism
Date:	14 th December 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To advise Members on how the wording of the recent motion about the definition of antisemitism brought to Strategic Policy and Resources at the November meeting would impact on the Good Relations Strategy and associated policies.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Consider the definition and associated examples of ant-Semitism as published by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on 26th May 2016 and if the definition should be fully incorporated into the Council's Good Relations Strategy and associated policies bearing in mind the impact as outlined below.

2.2	That further to the recommendation of the Shared City Partnership on 5 th November 2018, Committee agrees that the draft Good Relations Strategy be published for public consultation in January 2018.
3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="272 376 421 409"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="165 477 1458 658">3.1 At the last meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the following motion, which had been proposed at the Council meeting on 1st November 2018 by Councillor Craig and seconded by Councillor Boyle had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), be referred to the Committee for consideration.</p> <p data-bbox="165 725 1442 907">3.2 <i>“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”</i></p> <p data-bbox="165 974 1378 1155">3.3 Furthermore, the Council agrees that this definition and associated examples of anti-Semitism, published by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on 26th May 2016, are fully incorporated into this Council’s Good Relations strategy and associated policies.”</p> <p data-bbox="165 1223 1362 1359">3.4 The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on how the wording of the motion would impact on the Good Relations Strategy and associated policies.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1426 1442 1608">3.5 It was pointed out that the Good Relations Strategy was scheduled to be considered later in the meeting under the minutes of the meeting of the Good Relations Partnership and accordingly, given the decision in relation to the motion, it was agreed that that part of the minutes be deferred until a future meeting.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1675 1474 1856">3.6 A copy of the definition and the associated examples as published by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and referred to in the above notice of motion are attached at Appendix 1 for member’s information. Members may be aware that the definition and associated examples have been subject to some debate.</p>

Impact on Good Relations Strategy

- 3.7 The draft Good Relations Strategy has been agreed by the Shared City Partnership at its meeting on 5th November 2018 and is attached at Appendix 2. Pending SP and R Committee and Council approval anticipated in January, the draft strategy will go out to public consultation, via the Council's Citizen Space portal.
- 3.8 The Strategy outlines a vision for the promotion of a shared Belfast. It is not intended to be an action plan rather a framework to support the delivery of Good Relations in Belfast. Throughout this document, we have used the term Good Relations to describe good community and race relations between people of different community, religious, racial or political backgrounds.
- 3.9 The Strategy looks at issues of separation, sectarianism and racism in a holistic manner. No one community has been singled out within the document, as the aim is to promote good relations between all our citizens on different levels. We have not included definitions of any distinct prejudices but tackling discrimination and racism is implicit within the document as a whole.
- 3.10 To include one definition would mean that Council would have to agree definitions for each distinct element regarding prejudice towards those from a different community, religious, racial, political or background. This could prove extremely challenging and it would be difficult to ensure we had included every facet and manifestation of prejudice.
- 3.11 Members may wish to note that part of the outworking of the Strategy will be the District Council Good Relations Action Plan which is part funded by The Executive Office. The current plan is based on the priorities laid down in the Together: Building a United Community which are: Children and Young People, Safe Community, Shared Community and Cultural Expression.
- 3.12 Under these priorities, we run a number of programmes which meet particular outcomes which address diversity and difference. It is important to note that this work includes engagement with the Jewish community.
- 3.13 Examples include two annual events, organised as part of the DiverseCity programme, that open up opportunities for people from Belfast to visit the Jewish Synagogue enabling them

	<p>to understand aspects relating to the history, heritage and cultural practice of the community in Belfast. In addition, the Council, through the Good Relations Unit, is partnering with The Executive Office to run a regional event in the City Hall to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 24th January 2019. In the run up to this event, several engagement initiatives, involving a survivor of the Holocaust, were organised for communities and schools in October.</p>
3.14	<p>Therefore, while there may be no particular issues in Council agreeing the definition as presented, it would not be recommended that a definition particular to one section of the community be specifically incorporated into the Draft Good Relations Strategy and/or associated policies. Tackling all aspects of discrimination and racism is at the core of these strategies and policies and this would include such attitudes and behaviours in relation to the Jewish community and others.</p>
3.15	<p>On a related matter, Members should note that any delay on the draft Good Relations Strategy will affect the ability of the Strategy to be launched as planned in early Summer and will mean the consultation sessions will have to take place during Purdah. This will limit the ability of members to demonstrate cross party support for an important Council Strategy, which is a core value within the Belfast agenda, and Local Development Plan.</p>
	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.16	<p>There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.17	<p>All Council Strategies and policies are screened to look at the impact of such a policy or Strategy on groups listed under Section 75 which includes different religious, political or racial backgrounds. If a policy is deemed to have a potentially negative impact, then the Council must explore mitigating actions to alleviate the negative impact. There are no rural needs implications.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 - Definition of AntiSemitism and associated examples as published by International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance May 2016</p>

