

COUNTY COUNCIL: 13TH OCTOBER 2020

Agenda Item No.8(e) – Motion from Councillor Joshua Schumann

Amendment proposed by Councillor Sandra Crawford

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough

Cambridgeshire County Council notes:

- That Cambridgeshire is a County that embraces a multi-cultural and tolerant society and that this Council desires to enhance that reputation. The recent anti-racism motion and actions which we supported in July 2020, which called for "...an actively anti-racist outlook within areas we have influence" demonstrated, in principle, our role in this regard. However, we recognise that we need to mobilise practical action to send a clear and explicit message of support and solidarity to anyone suffering persecution because of race, religion, gender, sexuality or any other form of discrimination.
- That, whilst there has been an increase across the UK, Europe and Worldwide, in incidents of racism, including antisemitism, and hate crime it is acknowledged that incidents in Cambridgeshire are not as high as in some other areas. We are determined to work together with our communities and partners to ensure such incidents are not tolerated in our County, despite the current pandemic and rising tensions regarding international migration and those seeking asylum unwittingly contributing to these.
- The UK Government's support of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, which states that "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."
- The vital role all of our communities have played thus far during the pandemic, including helpful translations of key Coronavirus messages into 27 different languages, practical support and assistance provided to vulnerable residents with for example access to food and essential supplies, and the support provided to people who are isolated or anxious through befriending and pastoral care.
- The work of the cross-party Improving Social Mobility working group of the Communities and Partnership Committee, which is focussed on ensuring equality of opportunity for all of our residents, regardless of their background.
- The opportunity we now have to further extend and formalise our combined efforts to continue to ensure our county is a tolerant one, through the key leadership role the County Council can take via our ongoing commitment to working with communities and partners through our Think Communities unified approach, demonstrated in the investment recently approved at General Purpose Committee.

Cambridgeshire County Council therefore resolves to take the following steps:

- Ask the Communities and Partnership Committee, through its work on the Think Communities unified approach and the development of our community strategy, to assess the impact of our policies and service delivery on all of our residents, regardless of their backgrounds, bringing forward any recommendations to improve and update them.

- As part of this work, adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, and, as part of the work of the Communities and Partnership Committee, describe how that recognition will manifest itself across the business of the council.
- **As part of this work, we should recognise that Black lives matter, and we should challenge the forces that show discrimination, and show humanity and caring to all those who suffer discrimination, including those of the Windrush community.**
- **As part of this work, residents who are of the travelling community should not suffer from discrimination or hate, but be helped to find suitable sites to live in peace with their neighbours.**
- **As part of this work, asylum seekers who face persecution, torture, murder or female mutilation should be helped to find a place of safety in this county.**
- **As part of this work, all forms of Islamophobia must be challenged and Muslims allowed to practise their beliefs in peace.**
- Ask the Chief Executive to approach the various faith and community leaders in Cambridgeshire, and other bodies representative of those with recognised discriminatory factors, to work with us to send out a co-ordinated multi faith message of support, solidarity and harmony on the theme of communities united, supporting and living together through this winter, whilst still dealing with a pandemic. Further, ensure this leads to an inaugural countywide event in 2021 that brings partners together to celebrate achievements and agree further work and priorities.