

## COUNTY COUNCIL: 13TH OCTOBER 2020

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

Amendment proposed by Councillor John Williams

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 **which values difference** and that this Council desires to enhance that reputation. The recent ~~anti-racism~~ **Black Lives Matter** 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 ~~w~~**Worldwide**, in incidents or racism, including antisemitism, and hate crime it is acknowledged that ~~incidents in Cambridgeshire are not as high as in some other areas~~ **while evidence shows a black person is 6 times more likely to be subject to stop and search than a white person in Cambridgeshire, incidents of antisemitism are less widely reported.** We are determined to work together with our communities and partners to ensure such incidents are not tolerated in our ~~c~~County, ~~despite the current pandemic and rising tensions regarding international migration and those seeking asylum unwittingly contributing to these.~~ **and ensure our asylum seekers are welcomed to our county and appreciated for the valuable role they play economically and socially.**
- 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~~ **welcoming** 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.
- **The enormous value immigrants bring to the economy of our area, bringing both specialist knowledge needed in the tech and biomedical sectors around Cambridge, and the skilled labour on which the agricultural sector in the north of the county depends. Immigrant workers have been crucial in keeping our public services and**

food chains going throughout the pandemic and we thank them for the crucial role they play in our communities.

- That many EU nationals who came to offer their skills and work to this country, feel their contribution here has not been valued, and that this sense of being rejected is exacerbated by the refusal of the current Conservative government to provide paper documentation to those who have the right to remain under the EU-UK withdrawal agreement.
- The responsibilities of the Country for upholding the rule of law, not just in tackling racism here in Cambridgeshire, but also in upholding human rights, and the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights in all our dealings, both here in Cambridgeshire and nationally.
- That recognising human rights and fighting racism includes recognising and fighting to support the rights of those fleeing persecution and serious human rights violations, including asylum seekers, seeking sanctuary in this Country.
- The excellent work being done by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council in resettling 125 Syrian refugees under the government resettlement scheme, and providing support for asylum seekers and refugees who were not eligible for this scheme.
- That tackling racism means looking across all Council policies, and those of partner organisations where this Council, or councillors who sit on this Council, are represented, and ensuring that all our policies are blind to colour or religion in the support we or partner organisations offer to those wishing to settle in Cambridgeshire.

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, **including within this the policies of the Combined Authority on affordable housing, where this Council is a key partner, in particular the £100k homes policy, and any other policies which offer particular benefits to those who have family in a given area.**
- 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.
- Ask the Chief Executive to approach the various faith, **non-faith** and community leaders in Cambridgeshire, and other bodies representative of those with recognised discriminatory factors, **including the LBGTQ and Trans communities** 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.

- **Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister asking him to introduce physical documentation for those who have leave to remain as EU nationals resident in this country.**
- **Offer to take part in the relocation program for asylum seeking children and young people, taking the pressure off Councils such as Kent, who already have large numbers of asylum seeker children to support.**
- **Work with Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council to enable them to extend their current refugee resettlement scheme and develop a partnership to leverage the powers of all Cambridgeshire councils to ensure we can relocate the maximum number of vulnerable people.”**
- **Work with all district councils and government to ensure the levels of support for asylum seeker families which are offered in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire following their participation in the government resettlement scheme, which was paused in March, are extended for the future and across more of Cambridgeshire.**