

Subject: Items referred from 18 October Full Council meeting
Date: 3 December 2018
Report of: Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer: Name: Mark Wall **Tel:** 01273 291006
E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Wards Affected: Various

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To receive any petitions and/or deputations referred from the full Council meeting held on the 18 October 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee responds to the petition either by noting it or where it is considered appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options shown below and writes to the lead petitioner setting out the committee's decision:
- taking the action requested in the petition
 - holding an inquiry into the matter
 - undertaking research into the matter
 - holding a public meeting
 - holding a consultation
 - holding a meeting with petitioners
 - calling a referendum
- 2.2 That the Committee responds to the deputations either by noting them or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options and writes to the deputation spokesperson setting out the committee's decision(s).

3. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

- 3.1 To receive the following petition referred from the meeting of full Council on the 18th October, 2018 and signed by 202 people:

“

Lead petitioner – Christopher Hawtree

- 3.2 To receive the following petition referred from the meeting of full Council on the 18th October:

To consider the following petition referred from Full Council on 18 October 2018:

“We ask that with next Libraries Plan, due in January in, this Council includes a report to the Committee to explain the situation which has led to a disproportionate reduction in the number of new books being brought for Hove’s Carnegie Library. Indeed, it has seen a cut to the previously ring-fenced Book Fund greatly exceeding the stated overall cut of 25%.

We also ask that there be a reversal of this Administration’s reduction in the Carnegie’s opening hours.

What’s more, with funding and new books steered towards Brighton’s Jubilee Library, we ask for a review of the method of overall stock selection (many good books are not being chosen in advance for any library). Our town’s central, Carnegie Library now appear to be regarded by the Administration as merely a branch library. Such an oxalic attitude to the Carnegie Library is counter to its stained glass and lift door, which proclaim: “Floreat Hova.”

(1) Deputation concerning Child Refugees - Spokesperson Elaine Ortiz

Supported by:

Alistair Rooms

Toby Moore

Nick Norton

John Gantley

Mariam O’Gorman

Mick Sutton

Michael Hamilton

Steve Williams

Jo Sweeting

Penelope Steel

Vicki Lesley

Ward affected: All

- 3.3 An extract from the minutes of the full council meeting setting out the deputation and any supporting papers are set out in Item 32 (2)(i).

(2) Deputation concerning The IHRA Definition of Antisemitism - Spokesperson Nadia Edmond

Supported by:

Ms Agnes Baetens

Mr Sabri Benameur

Prof Ben Rogaly

Ms Cath Senger

Ms Dorothy Sheridan MBE

Ward affected: All

- 3.4 An extract from the minutes of the full council meeting setting out the deputation and any supporting papers are set out in Item 32 (2)(ii).

(3) Deputation concerning The IHRA Definition of Antisemitism - Spokesperson Fiona Sharp

Supported by:

Rabbi Andrea Zanardo

Beryl Sharpe

Sarah Wilks

Rabbi Hershel Rader

Debra Goodman

Rabbi Elli Sarah Tikvah

Rabbi de Beck Spitzer

Ward affected: All

- 3.5 An extract from the minutes of the full council meeting setting out the deputation and any supporting papers are set out in Item 32 (2)(iii).

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 19 JULY 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBER - HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Simson (Chair), Phillips (Deputy Chair), Atkinson, Barford, Barnett, Bell, Bennett, Brown, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Gilbey, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Hyde, Inkpin-Leissner, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morgan, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Page, Peltzer Dunn, Penn, Platts, Robins, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls and Yates.

PART ONE

30 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) CHILD REFUGEES

30.1 The Mayor reported that four deputations had been received from members of the public and noted that two had been taken earlier in the meeting as part of the debate on the IHRA definition for Anti-Semitism. She noted that the remaining two deputations would now be considered and invited Ms. Ortiz. as the spokesperson for the first deputation to come forward and address the council.

30.2 Mr. Al Yousef thanked the Mayor and stated that he was attending on behalf of Ms. Ortiz and would like to start by thanking Brighton & Hove council for welcoming him as a refugee and for the brilliant work done already in supporting refugees. Our council have really shown leadership on refugee resettlement by resettling 28 refugees (as far as I know) through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. You have taken on the serious responsibility of working with families and supporting them to create a new life here. Thank you for taking the decision to transform the lives of families. You've also supported young people like me to come and make a new life in Brighton -- I've been able to make a home here -- so thank you for helping to make that happen.

This year is the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport, the scheme through which Britain welcomed 10,000 child refugees over two years. This anniversary marks the best of what Britain is about: helping those fleeing war and terror make a new life.

As part of this anniversary, we are joining a national campaign led by Lord Alf Dubs, himself a Kindertransport child, to call on central Government to start a fully-funded scheme for 1,000 child refugees to be resettled in the UK every year. If the UK were to

take 1,000 children a year, spread across the UK, each local authority would support just three children.

We want to recreate now what happened then. People like me from across Britain are speaking to councils over the UK, from Perth and Kinross in Scotland down to Lewes, to ask them to offer places for child refugees in a new fully-funded scheme.

We think local authorities like ours, who represent welcoming places, can show leadership on the issue and offer more than three places a year. Hammersmith and Fulham Council have offered 100 places for child refugees; Scotland's Perth and Kinross Council have offered 20 places; and Barnet has pledged 30 places for child refugees.

We think in Brighton and Hove we are a welcoming place, so we want to work with our Council to resettle 100 child refugees over 10 years -- just 10 children every year. So we are here to ask one question:--

1. Will Brighton and Hove City Council commit to resettle 10 child refugees a year if central Government were to create a new fully-funded scheme?

We would be happy to support the council to make this happen. It would help newer refugee children and children currently in care find a home.

We would be happy to meet with the Council to discuss how we could support you in this.

30.3 Councillor Daniel thanked Mr. Al Yousef for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. She stated that Brighton and Hove was proud to be a city of sanctuary and she was grateful to all the organisations involved in supporting refugees and was happy to commit to receiving 10 unaccompanied children per year as part of the Dubs Scheme. She noted that the city had already received a number of asylum seeking children and spontaneous arrivals; however the biggest barrier was the need for foster carers and funding for mental health services to support children and families arriving in the city.

30.4 The Mayor thanked Mr. Al Yousef for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. She explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee for consideration. The persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action to be taken or proposed in relation to the matter set out in the deputation.

Supporting Information

80 years on it's... **Our turn** 

The *Our Turn* campaign – 10,000 child refugees resettled over the next 10 years

- Supported by the refugee charity Safe Passage, and led by Lord Alf Dubs, the *Our Turn* campaign is calling for the establishment of a new 'Children at Risk' resettlement scheme to bring 10,000 child refugees to the UK over the next 10 years.
- The scheme should build on and extend the current Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) beyond 2020, with central government providing funding to local authorities that at least equals that allocated under VCRS.
- Critically, the new scheme would be open to vulnerable children in Europe as well as other regions around the world, to reflect the urgent need for protection of many children who arrive in Europe.
- **To secure this ambitious government commitment, the *Our Turn* campaign is asking local authorities to pledge places for children for this future scheme.**

How can local authorities support the *Our Turn* campaign and help secure a new Children at Risk scheme?

- In the past the Government has suggested that councils are unwilling to offer additional places to children. This was the justification they gave for cutting the numbers of children to be taken in under the Dubs scheme from 3,000 to just 480 places.
- **The reality is that authorities across the country have consistently volunteered to take more child refugees if the government provides adequate funding.**
- For the *Our Turn* campaign to succeed in securing an ambitious commitment to resettle 10,000 children over 10 years, it is essential that the government is sent a clear message that councils are willing to resettle more children, providing adequate support is there.
- Every place that a council pledges will help the *Our Turn* campaign show the government that the willingness to help is there.
- 10,000 children over 10 years equates to just 3 children per local authority per year. However, we are asking councils who can to pledge more than 3 places to ensure enough places are offered. We have already had commitments from councils in cities and rural areas ranging from 20 to 100 places.

Why is it *Our Turn*?

- **This year is the 80th anniversary of the start of the Kindertransport, a rescue operation launched by the UK government and Jewish groups that saved 10,000 child refugees from Nazi Europe. A new commitment to resettle child refugees will continue the UK's proud history of offering sanctuary to vulnerable children.**
- Britain's existing resettlement commitments (the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme) are due to expire in 2020. The Dubs scheme resettling vulnerable children from within Europe is due to end after 480 children are resettled.
- With the current routes to safety threatened, Britain has an urgent responsibility to live up to the Kindertransport legacy by establishing a new and lasting legal commitment to ensure child refugees can access safe passage.

What will the new Children at Risk scheme look like?

- UNHCR figures show that across the world, over half a million children need urgent resettlement. In 2017 alone, nearly 32,963 refugee and migrant children arrived in Europe. Over 60% of these were unaccompanied or separated, compared to 34% in 2016¹.

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/63435>

- The new Children at Risk scheme will extend the current VCRS to incorporate the principles of the Dubs scheme, enabling both unaccompanied and vulnerable children with family to benefit. It would also be available to vulnerable refugee children both within Europe and other regions globally.

The scheme will be flexible to meet the changing need from year-to-year. Eligibility will be determined by vulnerability and the best interests of the child rather than location or nationality.

- **The *Our Turn* campaign is calling on central government to fund the scheme to at least the rate of the existing VCRS and Section 67 Schemes** - currently up to £114 per day for unaccompanied children and £25,020 over five years for accompanied children. There is also limited additional funding available via the Controlling Migration Fund and the possibility for councils in England to draw on extra support for healthcare and English language provision².
- The Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's 2018 report on the VPRS³ found that local authorities were generally positive about the amount they received to cover the costs of the first year of a VPRS resettlement of accompanied minors (which is the same as that for VCRS). However, in their joint response to the UASC funding review, the ADCS and LGA have made clear that the current rate of funding for unaccompanied minors remains inadequate and requires a significant uplift⁴.
- **The *Our Turn* campaign believes that if the new Children at Risk scheme is to be fit for purpose, the government must take the concerns of local authorities on board and allocate adequate funding for the new Children at Risk scheme.**

Publicly thanking pledging councils at a Kindertransport Commemoration

- On 15th November, 1,000 *Our Turn* supporters, including Kindertransport survivors, child refugees, senior public figures, charities and civil society will come together in a major national event to commemorate the Kindertransport and celebrate the role communities have played in assisting child refugees to reach protection both then and now.
- Local authorities who make pledges will be invited to attend this very special commemoration event, to be publicly thanked for their commitment to helping child refugees today.
- The campaign hopes to announce pledges for at least 1,000 'Children at Risk' places from councils at the commemoration and to call on the government to fund the new scheme.

Making a Children at Risk pledge

- If you are ready to pledge to help child refugees, the *Our Turn* campaign can add your commitment to our online record of pledging councils – please let us know if you would like us to include photos or a message of support. We can then work with your Press Office to publicise the commitment.
- To discuss the campaign further, please contact Rosie Rooney, Press and Public Affairs Manager Rosie.rooney@safepassage.org.uk - 07517805753 or Alistair Rooms, Campaigns Organiser on Alistair.rooms@safepassage.org.uk - 07398504371

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/722154/Combined_local_authority_funding_instruction_2018-2019_v2.pdf

³ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/705155/VPRS_Final_Artwork_revised.pdf

⁴ http://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/ADCS_LGA_Joint_response_to_UASC_Funding_Review.pdf

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 19 JULY 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBER - HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Simson (Chair), Phillips (Deputy Chair), Atkinson, Barford, Barnett, Bell, Bennett, Brown, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Gilbey, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Hyde, Inkpin-Leissner, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morgan, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Page, Peltzer Dunn, Penn, Platts, Robins, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls and Yates.

PART ONE

30 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(2) THE IHRA DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

30.5 The Mayor invited Ms. Edmond as the spokesperson for the deputation to come forward and address the council.

30.6 Ms. Edmond thanked the Mayor and stated that on October 18th 2018, councillors will debate a proposal to 'adopt' a definition of antisemitism framed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). On behalf of numerous civil society organisations in the City – working to combat racism in all its forms – we urge Councillors to vote *against* this proposal.

Charges of antisemitism have recently been levelled at many groups and individuals, including some politicians and campaigners. With the issue of antisemitism prominent in the media, the IHRA definition appears to offer local councils an opportunity to signal clearly their repudiation of this odious form of race hatred.

There are several reasons to reject the proposal to 'adopt' the IHRA definition. First, the City Council's existing policies already make clear its unambiguous opposition to racism. Moreover, we understand that the Council will consider adopting an even stronger anti-racist policy at its October meeting, and we naturally applaud this. We feel that to single out antisemitism for special or additional treatment will send the wrong message to other members of our community who also face racism. Antisemitism is a pernicious form of race hatred, which undoubtedly exists in the city. But it is no more and no less pernicious than other forms of race hatred. If the Council's anti-racism policies are adequate for some parts of our community, they are surely adequate for *all* parts of our community. And if the Council's policies are

inadequate for some parts of our community, they must be strengthened for *all* parts of our community.

Second, the IHRA definition goes far beyond a definition of anti-Jewish hatred and discrimination. It explicitly links antisemitism to criticism of the Israeli government. We are profoundly concerned by this attempt to position legitimate *political* criticism as *religious* or *ethnic* discrimination or stereotyping. The effect of adopting the IHRA definition would be to silence legitimate criticism of Israel by labelling it as antisemitism. (*see supporting information)

Third, Brighton and Hove City Council has a responsibility to uphold the provisions of Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, including the right to freedom of expression for all its citizens. This freedom of expression must include the right to condemn Israel's repeated violations of international humanitarian law, UN resolutions, and the Fourth Geneva Convention. The IHRA definition, in conflating antisemitism with criticism of Israel, risks being seen in law to limit such freedom. There are therefore profound civil liberties implications in adopting the IHRA definition.

Finally, we state again our unwavering opposition to all forms of racism, and applaud the City Council for its resolve on this issue. We strongly urge City Councillors to resist the pressure to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism – not in a negative spirit, but in the positive spirit of standing together against racism.

- 30.7 Councillor Yates thanked Ms. Edmond for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. He stated that the arguments were well thought out and he respected the views expressed; however he did not believe that the IHRA definition curtailed free speech but rather was aimed at curtailing hate speech. He accepted that no definition was perfect but the council had been asked by the local community to adopt a working definition and to do nothing was effectively accepting anti-Semitism and that would be wrong.
- 30.8 The Mayor thanked Ms. Edmond for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. She explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee for consideration. The persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action to be taken or proposed in relation to the matter set out in the deputation.

Supporting Information:

On this point, we particularly draw Councillors' attention to two recent public statements. The first was issued in July by over 40 Jewish groups in 15 countries, co-ordinated by Jewish Voice for Peace (), condemning attempts to use the IHRA definition to stifle criticism of Israel with false accusations of antisemitism. These Jewish groups explicitly state their opposition to 'Israel's policies and system of occupation and apartheid' – a description that is deemed to be antisemitic under the IHRA definition. The other statement was issued last month by over 100 Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic organisations, writing as the 'Our History-Our Place' coalition (*). The groups argue that the IHRA definition of antisemitism could lead to a silencing of public discussion about past and current injustices suffered by the Palestinian people, and about the racism underlying those injustices.

Each City Councillor has been sent a copy of a legal opinion produced last year by Hugh Tomlinson QC. Tomlinson's opinion is a considered and dispassionate analysis of the IHRA definition, and provides sound reasons for the City Council to decline to adopt the IHRA definition. Indeed a decision to adopt it would create division and confusion.

Councillors may know that the original drafter of the IHRA definition of antisemitism, Kenneth Stern, has publicly stated that there are already signs the IHRA definition will be used to 'encourage punishments of legitimate expressions of political opinion' – a use for which it was never designed.

It is also important for Councillors to note that many public bodies have declared their opposition to the IHRA definition, including universities and colleges, trade unions, faith groups and local councils.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 19 JULY 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBER - HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Simson (Chair), Phillips (Deputy Chair), Atkinson, Barford, Barnett, Bell, Bennett, Brown, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Gilbey, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Hyde, Inkipin-Leissner, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morgan, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Page, Peltzer Dunn, Penn, Platts, Robins, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls and Yates.

PART ONE

30 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(4) IHRA DEFINITION

30.9 The Mayor invited Ms. Sharpe as the spokesperson for the deputation to come forward and address the council.

30.10 Ms. Sharpe thanked the Mayor and stated that she was speaking on behalf of Sussex Jewish Representative Council and the vast majority of the 3000 people who make up the Jewish community in Brighton, Hove and Sussex.

We fully support and encourage the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition on Antisemitism and all its examples by this Council, bringing them in line with the 141 other councils across the country.

The adoption of the IHRA definition gives my community the protection it needs against the growing tide of antisemitism we are seeing in this country. The latest hate crime figures once again show that antisemitism hate crimes have risen.

We, like all minority communities and those with protected characteristics, are fully entitled to self-define hate against us. We do not seek to tell other minorities what is or is not an attack on them. We see no reason why others feel better equipped to tell us what is or isn't antisemitism.

We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with other faith groups and minority communities against all hate, racism and bigotry.

The IHRA definition in no way limits an individual's freedom of speech and is equally clear that robust, legitimate criticism against the government of Israel is perfectly

permissible. But as MP Gareth Snell so clearly stated last weekend, 'If you're not able to criticise Israel without breaching IHRA, it isn't IHRA stopping you, its probably that you're an antisemite.'

We welcome the strong and principled stand taken by the leaders of all three parties here in Brighton and Hove in doing what is right. This in no way affects any other minority community or the people of Brighton and Hove or any causes they wish to support and champion. The decision today to adopt the IHRA without any amendments or caveats will be welcomed by the majority of our 3000 strong community. Brighton and Hove's Jewish community has thrived and contributed to this city for more than 250 years. This motion demonstrates that we are valued, heard, respected and protected by this Council in our welcoming City of Sanctuary. We are grateful for your support and solidarity.

- 30.11 Councillor Yates thanked Ms. Sharpe for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. He stated that it was clear that self-definition was a crucial aspect and he respected the request to the council to recognise that. He was aware of the support taken by various organisations against hate crime such as the local bus company and believed that people needed to speak out against such crime. He was therefore supportive of adopting the IHRA definition as requested.
- 30.12 The Mayor thanked Ms. Sharpe for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. She explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee for consideration. The persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action to be taken or proposed in relation to the matter set out in the deputation.

