

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN
COUNCIL MEETING – 24 APRIL 2017

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

- 1. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Abdul Hai and seconded by Councillor Roger Robinson**

Adoption Of International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Antisemitism

This council expresses alarm at the rise in antisemitism across the UK in recent years. This includes incidents when criticism of Israel has been expressed using antisemitic tropes.

Whilst the criticism of any government, including Israel's, is a legitimate part of democratic discourse, too many people wittingly or unwittingly cross the line in to anti-Jewish rhetoric, which neither helps the cause of community cohesion in the UK nor of peace in the Middle East. A definition and examples of types of contemporary antisemitism is therefore helpful.

To that end, we welcome the Government's announcement on December 12th 2016, supported by the Official Opposition, that the UK will sign up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines on antisemitism, which define antisemitism thus:

"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 guidelines highlight manifestations of antisemitism as including:

- "Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.

- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.”

This Council hereby adopts the definition of antisemitism as outlined above and set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and pledges to combat this pernicious form of racism.

The Council resolves that the Council Leader and Chief Executive should take steps to ensure that key partners are aware of Camden’s decision to adopt this definition and to ensure it is well publicised to our communities.

2. To consider the following Motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Andrew Menear and seconded by Councillor Oliver Cooper

This Council:

- notes that Camden’s local Metropolitan Police command has been merged with Islington, and that the new combined force is headquartered in Islington;
- recalls the many warnings expressed by Camden councillors in the past about the roll-out of borough-based policing, in particular where this reduced the number of police stations from which patrols are based;
- while hoping for the best from the new policing model, expresses concern at the Islington focus that will lead to the reduced number of Safer Neighbourhood Team sergeants, all spending several days each month in Islington rather than in our wards;
- observes the one-way streets, cycle lanes, road humps, and traffic that slow the speed of response to 999 calls in both Camden and Islington;
- notes the success of the current policing structure in Camden, leading to crime falling by 18% in our borough in the last six years; and therefore

- calls for assurances that Holborn, Kentish Town, and West Hampstead police stations will remain open for police to patrol from, and that the police stables will also remain in West Hampstead; and
- resolves to write to the Mayor of London and the new Metropolitan Police Commissioner with a copy of this motion.

3. To consider the following Motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Sian Berry and seconded by Councillor Flick Rea

This Council notes that new community-led models of housing development are a real opportunity for a wide range of people to be part of providing new homes.

Groups of residents developing ideas for new co-operatives, community land trusts and co-housing developments are springing up across London and can now apply for financial support from the Mayor's Homes for Londoners Affordable Homes programme.

The Government has also recently provided support to borough councils, including Camden, for building capacity within local groups for community-led housing. The new Community Housing Fund is an annual programme and in following years the funds must be used to help deliver housing on the ground.

Camden has thousands of people in need of new homes at social and living rent levels, including teachers, emergency service workers, NHS staff, cleaners, shop workers, and many more vital citizens who are increasingly having to move away from our borough. These are the ideal people to be getting together to form housing co-ops or community land trusts and the council should be supporting them as much as it can.

We urge Cabinet Members to use the support of the Mayor and the Government funding recently provided to help spread information about community-led housing to new people in Camden, pooling resources with other councils if needed.

We also urge the Council Leader and Cabinet to look closely at working with community groups to build truly affordable homes using these new models of development on the Council's own land in future.

ENDS