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**Manchester City Council  
Report for Resolution**

**Report to:** Council – 24 January 2018

**Subject:** Definition of Antisemitism

**Report of:** The Chief Executive

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**Ward Affected:** All

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**Financial consequences for the Revenue Budget - None**

**Financial consequences for the Capital Budget - None**

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**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At its meeting of 31 March 2017, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) agreed to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism to give clarity to a shared understanding of the term. The GMCA encouraged Greater Manchester local authorities to take steps to adopt the working definition.
- 1.2 Manchester City Council's Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee has since encouraged the Council's adoption of the working definition, to give assurance to the city's Jewish communities of the Council's commitment that antisemitic behaviours will not be tolerated. The working definition of antisemitism, as defined by the IHRA, is below.

**Recommendation:**

Council is recommended to adopt the working definition of antisemitism outlined at 2.1 below.

**2. Definition**

- 2.1 "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."

### **3. Manchester Context**

- 3.1 Manchester has a very significant and established Jewish community, whose contribution to the city culturally, economically and socially is integral to its fabric. The City Council annually recognises Holocaust Memorial Day, with joint community and school events being held each year to inform and inspire concepts of inclusion and cohesion in future generations. The legacy of the holocaust continues to drive this work as a symbol of the Council's ongoing commitment to remembrance.
- 3.2 The Council recognises, respects and values all of the city's communities including its Jewish citizenship, as articulated through the Our Manchester Strategy aim for Manchester to be a progressive and equitable city. Adoption of the working definition of antisemitism is therefore not only in-keeping with Manchester's strategic direction, but also with the Council's various other commitments and approaches around inclusion and cohesion, such as its support of the Challenging Hate agenda and its contribution to the Manchester Hate Crime Strategy 2016-19.
- 3.3 The adoption of the working definition of antisemitism gives clarity to the Council's understanding of the term, but is also a strong gesture of a responsible organisation giving assurance to the city's Jewish communities and Manchester citizens more generally that antisemitic discrimination is not tolerable and has no place in our Manchester.