

County Buildings
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SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – 29 JUNE 2022 AT 10AM

NOTICE OF MOTION TO COUNCIL:

(1) from Councillor Brian McGinley, seconded by Councillor Peter Henderson:-

“The UK All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) conducted an inquiry in April 2018 to develop a working definition of Islamophobia and agreed a working definition of Islamophobia that provides: -

“Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.”

This definition is endorsed by all political parties in the Scottish Government and adopted by the Liberal Democrats, UK Labour, Plaid Cymru, SNP Westminster Group and the Muslim Council of Britain.

It is a pragmatic definition that supports policymakers to tackle the manifestations of islamophobia effectively: -

- The definition addresses forms of Islamophobia beyond physical and verbal abuse, currently governed by existing hate legislation.” Perceived Muslimness” highlights the radicalisation and intersectionality of Islamophobia, an issue which affects non-Muslim communities such as Sikhs because of harmful stereotypes.
- The definition signifies allyship with British Muslims, who are the most disproportionately targeted religious group as per Home Office’s report highlighting 45% of recorded religious hate crime id targeted towards Muslims 2020/21.
- The definition sets precedent for local institutions such as police, schools, and other workplaces by equipping them to better understand the issue and devise meaningful strategies to tackle it. For instance, undergoing and delivering awareness training.

The Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group (CPG) on Tackling Islamophobia was established in April 2018 to consider Islamophobia in Scotland. A report entitled “**Scotland’s Islamophobia**” prepared by Peter Hopkins from the University of Newcastle supports the use of this definition and contains recommendations for the Scottish Government and a more limited number for local authorities where they choose to adopt the definition.

Council is therefore asked to note the proposal to adopt this definition of Islamophobia and requests officers to prepare a report for Cabinet in August that provides further background to the adopting of this definition, explains the steps Council requires to take if it adopts the definition and sets out any associated costs of doing so.”

(2) from Councillor Lee Lyons, seconded by Councillor Bob Shields:-

“Council asks that officers present a report to the Cabinet in August providing

1. an update on the programme of works for implementing the decision of Council on 26 November 2019 to demolish the riverside flats including the progress with the removal of the mast on the third tower;
2. the full cost of the riverside flats’ demolition including the removal of the mast and any associated costs of doing so;
3. the steps Council would require to take to cancel the demolition, any consequences of doing so and the full costs associated with such cancellation; and
4. the steps required to refurbish the riverside flats, the expected timelines for a refurbishment and the full costs associated with a refurbishment.”

For more information on any of the items on this agenda, please telephone Janice McClure,
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