

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES**

**8 NOVEMBER 2021**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**CONSIDERATION FOR ADOPTION OF THE ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON BRITISH MUSLIMS' DEFINITION OF ISLAMOPHOBIA BY BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of Cabinet Committee Equalities with information on the All Party parliamentary group (APPG) on British Muslims' definition of islamophobia.
- 1.2 Cabinet Committee Equalities is asked to consider if the All Party parliamentary group on British Muslims' definition of islamophobia should be adopted by Bridgend County Borough Council.

**2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities**

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:
  - **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 In July 2021 all Leaders of Labour run councils were sent a letter from the Chair of the Labour Party urging them to demonstrate their commitment to supporting the Muslim community and working with them to root out Islamophobia wherever it rears its head by adopting the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia.

**4. Current situation/proposal**

- 4.1 The adoption of a working definition like the APPG definition of Islamophobia is the first step to help tackle the very real nature of

Islamophobia. The full report of the All Parliamentary Group on British Muslims – ‘**Islamophobia Defined**’ is attached as **Appendix one**.

- 4.2 Without a working definition, Islamophobia is often misunderstood, ignored and even allowed to take place openly across society. To understand any kind of prejudice or hatred, one has to understand how it manifests. One example of this can be seen with the story of the nursery school places and the SNP Minister Humza Yousaf. -[Humza Yousaf reports nursery over discrimination fears - BBC News](#). Often this kind of day to day Islamophobia is ignored because Islamophobia is only seen as hatred such as verbal or physical attacks on individuals.
- 4.3 There are many examples of both conscious and unconscious biases being placed towards Muslims across society that have not been able to be identified without a clear working definition of Islamophobia. Therefore, it is extremely important the APPG definition is accepted alongside all the examples provided by the APPG.
- 4.4 The adoption of a definition will signal to Muslim communities that there is a willingness to tackle Islamophobia. This helps build trust in communities which can lead to openness, more reporting on incidents and general relationships being developed for long term work.
- 4.5 A definition is only the first step to tackle Islamophobia but it allows a framework to be used to identify prejudices that may be faced locally. The long-term work is built upon identification but also working with Muslim communities to tackle Islamophobia in all its forms.
- 4.6 The working APPG (All-Party Parliamentary Group) definition of Islamophobia including all of its examples in full cited as follows:  
"ISLAMOPHOBIA IS ROOTED IN RACISM AND IS A TYPE OF RACISM THAT TARGETS EXPRESSIONS OF MUSLIMNESS OR PERCEIVED MUSLIMNESS."

Contemporary examples of Islamophobia in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in encounters between religions and non-religions in the public sphere could, considering the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, instigating or justifying the killing or harming of Muslims in the name of a racist/fascist ideology, or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims as such, or of Muslims as a collective group, such as, especially but not exclusively, conspiracies about Muslim entryism in politics, government or other societal institutions; the myth of Muslim identity having a unique propensity for terrorism and claims of a demographic ‘threat’ posed by Muslims or of a ‘Muslim takeover’.
- Accusing Muslims as a group of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person or

group of Muslim individuals, or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.

- Accusing Muslims as a group, or Muslim majority states, of inventing or exaggerating Islamophobia, ethnic cleansing or genocide perpetrated against Muslims.
- Accusing Muslim citizens of being more loyal to the 'Ummah' (transnational Muslim community) or to their countries of origin, or to the alleged priorities of Muslims worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying Muslim populations, the right to self-determination e.g., by claiming that the existence of an independent Palestine or Kashmir is a terrorist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of Muslims behaviours that are not expected or demanded of any other groups in society, eg loyalty tests.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic Islamophobia.
- Holding Muslims collectively responsible for the actions of any Muslim majority state, whether secular or constitutionally Islamic.

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

- 5.1 If the APPG definition of Islamophobia is adopted this will support the work of the Strategic Equality Plan and the community cohesion agenda and cuts across policy areas and service delivery.
- 5.2 Any future requests for the adoption of definitions in relation to equalities, discrimination or community cohesion will be managed in the same way as this definition in that the information will be brought to, discussed in, and a decision made by Cabinet Committee Equalities.

## **6. Equality Act 2010 implications**

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications**

- 7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

**Long-term** -The consideration and approval of this report will assist in supporting equalities objectives in the short-term and in the long term.

**Prevention** – Adoption of the APPG definition of Islamophobia will enable us to identify issues that are relevant in our community and workforce and set objectives to prevent problems from occurring.

**Integration** - Adoption of the APPG definition of Islamophobia supports all the well-being objectives and ensures integration for all people with protected characteristics.

**Collaboration** - The adoption of the APPG definition of Islamophobia will signal to Muslim communities that there is a willingness to tackle Islamophobia.

**Involvement** - Publication of the report ensures that the public and stakeholders can review the work that has been undertaken.

## **8. Financial implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 That the Cabinet Committee Equalities receives and considers this report before making a decision on the adoption of the APPG definition of Islamophobia by Bridgend County Borough Council.

**Mark Shephard**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**8 November 2021**

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**Background papers:**

None