

**COUNCIL – 20 SEPTEMBER 2018
QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Agenda item 7 refers

1. Councillor Shona Johnson to Councillor Waida Forman, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Equality and Diversity

Does the Portfolio Holder believe that the Council and all political parties making it up should recognise, sign up to and enforce the IHRA definition of Antisemitism in full?

Response from Councillor Waida Forman, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Equality and Diversity

Please see the answer given by the Leader if the Council in response to question 1 of the questions from the public. I am a hate crime ambassador and as you know this Council is a Hate Incident Reporting Centre and we will continue to campaign to raise awareness of hate crime, such as anti-Semitism and how to report such crimes. I hope that Councillor Shona Johnson will join me and become a hate crime ambassador and work with me to educate the community.

2. Councillor Shona Johnson to Councillor Waida Forman, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Equality and Diversity

As we have just celebrated Yom Kippur (18 to 19 September), can the Portfolio Holder tell us what the Council is doing to combat Antisemitism in Harlow?

Response from Councillor Waida Forman, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Equality and Diversity

Please see the answer given by the Leader if the Council in response to question 1 of the questions from the public. However, I would like to add that I have recently launched the Faith and Culture forum of which I am the Chair. I am pleased to announce that Rabbi Irit Shillor is the Vice Chair and we will work together to promote inclusion in our town. As a Muslim and a black person, I have personally experience racism and Islamophobia and I am not prepared to stand by and watch the Jewish community feel vulnerable and suffer. I have a long history of standing up to racism, fascism, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia; I will keep on doing so for anyone of any faith, belief, colour or gender. For years I, along with other Labour Councillors and Labour Party members have attended the Holocaust Memorial Service at the Synagogue and I hope to see Conservative Councillors at the next service, as this will show solidarity to the Jewish Community on a cross party basis.