

SPECIAL COUNCIL

To: All members of the Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a special meeting of South Norfolk Council for the purpose of transacting the business set out in this agenda.

Yours sincerely



Trevor Holden
Managing Director

Mr G Minshull
Chairman of the Council

Mrs F Ellis
Vice-Chairman of the Council

AGENDA

Date

Monday 11 November 2019

Time

10.30am (or on the rise of
Cabinet if later)

Place

Council Chamber
South Norfolk House
Cygnet Court
Long Stratton
Norwich
NR15 2XE

Contact

Claire White
01508 533669
democracy@s-norfolk.gov.uk
www.south-norfolk.gov.uk

This meeting may be filmed, recorded or photographed by the public; however, anyone who wishes to do so must inform the Chairman and ensure it is done in a non-disruptive and public manner. Please review the Council's guidance on filming and recording meetings available in the meeting room.

If you have any special requirements in order to attend this meeting,
please let us know in advance

Large print version can be made available

The Council's Prayer

A G E N D A

- 1 **Apologies for absence**

- 2 **Any items of business which the Chairman decides should be considered as matters of urgency pursuant to Section 100 B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act, 1972;** [Urgent business may only be taken if, "by reason of special circumstances" (which will be recorded in the minutes), the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered as a matter of urgency.]

- 3 **To Receive Declarations of Interest from Members**
(please see guidance – pages 3 & 4)

- 4 **Norfolk Business Rates Pool;** (report to follow)

To gain the approval of Council for ongoing arrangements for Norfolk Business Rates Pooling

5. **Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (HRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism;** (letter attached page 5)

To consider a request from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (letter attached) to adopt the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism:

“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.”

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AT MEETINGS

When declaring an interest at a meeting Members are asked to indicate whether their interest in the matter is pecuniary, or if the matter relates to, or affects a pecuniary interest they have, or if it is another type of interest. Members are required to identify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of other interests, the member may speak and vote. If it is a pecuniary interest, the member must withdraw from the meeting when it is discussed. If it affects or relates to a pecuniary interest the member has, they have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public but must then withdraw from the meeting. Members are also requested when appropriate to make any declarations under the Code of Practice on Planning and Judicial matters.

Have you declared the interest in the register of interests as a pecuniary interest? If Yes, you will need to withdraw from the room when it is discussed.

Does the interest directly:

1. affect yours, or your spouse / partner's financial position?
2. relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or your spouse / partner?
3. Relate to a contract you, or your spouse / partner have with the Council
4. Affect land you or your spouse / partner own
5. Affect a company that you or your partner own, or have a shareholding in

If the answer is "yes" to any of the above, it is likely to be pecuniary.

Please refer to the guidance given on declaring pecuniary interests in the register of interest forms. If you have a pecuniary interest, you will need to inform the meeting and then withdraw from the room when it is discussed. If it has not been previously declared, you will also need to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

Does the interest indirectly affect or relate any pecuniary interest you have already declared, or an interest you have identified at 1-5 above?

If yes, you need to inform the meeting. When it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as would a member of the public, but you should not partake in general discussion, or vote.

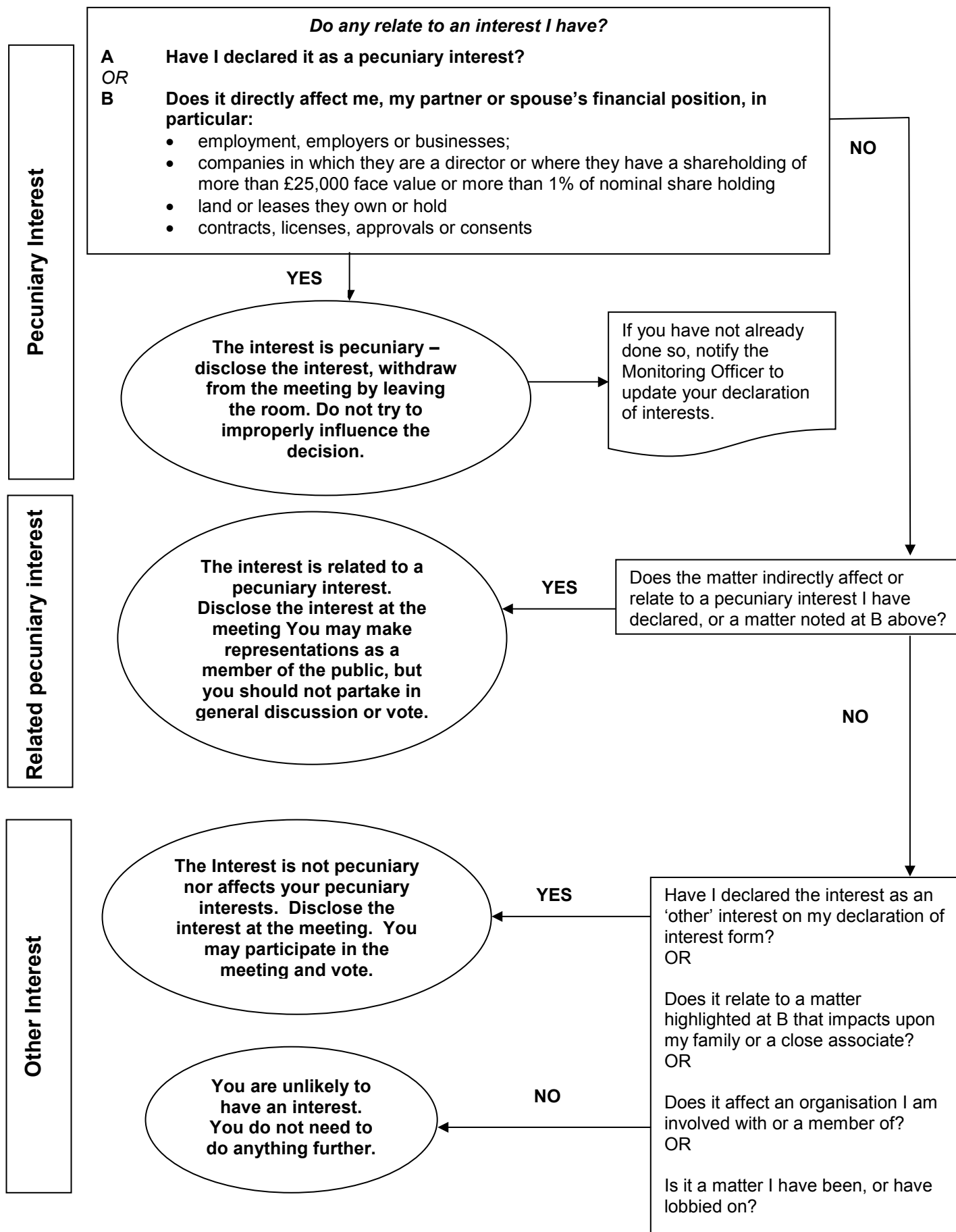
Is the interest not related to any of the above? If so, it is likely to be an 'other' interest. You will need to declare the interest but may participate in discussion and voting on the item.

Have you made any statements or undertaken any actions that would indicate that you have a closed mind on a matter under discussion? If so, you may be predetermined on the issue; you will need to inform the meeting, and when it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public but must then withdraw from the meeting.

**FOR GUIDANCE REFER TO THE FLOWCHART OVERLEAF.
PLEASE REFER ANY QUERIES TO THE MONITORING OFFICER IN THE FIRST
INSTANCE**

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

What matters are being discussed at the meeting?





Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP

*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government**

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Council Leaders in England

15 October 2019

Dear Local Leaders,

Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism

My predecessor wrote to you in early 2017 following the Government's adoption of the IHRA definition, encouraging you to formally adopt the definition as a clear message that antisemitic behaviour will not be tolerated. I am writing to you on this issue again to impress upon you the need to take urgent action, which is more important now than ever.

The Community Security Trust (CST) is the leading organisation monitoring and supporting victims of antisemitism, and I know many of you will be familiar with their work. Earlier this year, CST released their report on antisemitic incidents in the first six months of 2019. It showed the highest total on record over a six-month period, and an increase of 10% on the same period in 2018, with over 100 incidents per month for the third year running. Similarly, the annual figures for 2018 showed the highest number of antisemitic incidents on record.

This is a very worrying trend. CST's figures reflect the Home Office official statistics from October 2019 which show that 18% of religiously motivated hatred is targeted at Jewish people – up from 12% in 2018 – and that, per capita, Jewish people were most likely to report experiencing hatred.

The recent deplorable attack on a synagogue in Halle, Germany, which took the lives of two innocent people on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, shows that antisemitic hate crime is not a thing of the past. This must give us all serious pause.

It is in this context that I write to you again, to strongly urge you to formally adopt the IHRA definition and use it on all appropriate occasions. The definition is not designed to be legally binding, but it is an invaluable tool for public bodies to understand how antisemitism manifests itself in the 21st century. It demonstrates a commitment to engaging with the experiences of Jewish communities and supporting them against the contemporary challenges they face.

I recognise the local authorities who have already adopted the definition and considered its practical application, and I am grateful to you for showing leadership in tackling this challenge.

The IHRA definition is already used in guidance for the Police and Crown Prosecution Service, providing examples of the kinds of behaviours which, depending on the circumstances, could constitute antisemitism. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief also recently released a report which agreed that “the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism can offer valuable guidance for identifying antisemitism in its various forms” and encouraged its use in “education, awareness-raising and for monitoring and responding to manifestations of antisemitism”.

For our part, the Government is absolutely committed to combatting antisemitism in all its forms, from wherever it arises. Examples of this include the strong work of the Cross-Government Working Group to Tackle Antisemitism, which builds on our close relationship with Jewish communities. The Government funds projects such as Solutions Not Sides which seeks to challenge stereotypes and foster more nuanced discussion of the Israel-Palestinian conflict, and we have recently announced a further £100,000 in funding to tackle online antisemitism.

I am a strong advocate for clear standards on hate crime and a consistent approach across institutions to strengthen the support we provide to students and communities.

We recognise the incredibly valuable role local authorities have to play in tackling all forms of hate crime, in partnership with local police forces. Your intimate knowledge of local communities and their concerns provides valuable evidence to target responses. Your work to build resilience and integration locally helps to challenge some of the factors that may cause hate crime, preventing prejudice and hatred from taking root.

Eradicating antisemitism is not a task that the Government can achieve on our own. We need local authorities to show leadership, alongside our partners in civil society and community activists. The Government has adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism, as we recognise this is one of the strongest signals we can give our Jewish communities. It demonstrates that we hear and understand their concerns and are ready and willing to act in response. I would be grateful if you would inform me when you have adopted the definition, or the steps you are taking to adopt it, or otherwise explain your reluctance to do so, so that I can discuss the matter with you directly.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Jenrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a short, horizontal, slightly wavy line.

RT HON ROBERT JENRICK MP