

Cambridge City Council (Thursday 24 February 2005)

This Council notes that the Home Secretary is currently attempting to push an ID Cards Bill through Parliament. This Bill will have an effect upon all of the people of Cambridge. This Council believes:

- 1) That the disadvantages of such a scheme will outweigh any likely benefits to the people of Cambridge.
- 2) That the scheme will do little, if anything, to prevent terrorism, crime or fraud.
- 3) That the national database that underpins the identity card scheme may facilitate criminal fraud, terrorism and potential state abuses of human rights.
- 4) That the ID card and database proposals are likely to fundamentally alter the relationship between the state and the individual. According to Government estimates, the cost of such a scheme could reach 5.5 billion, with independent commentators predicting substantially higher costs. Cambridge residents will be required to pay an estimated 35 for a stand-alone ID card or 85 for a passport and ID card together.

This Council resolves to:

- 1) affiliate to the 'No2ID' campaign, which already includes MPs and several political parties
- 2) make representations at every possible stage, reiterating this Council's opposition to ID cards
- 3) take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the national identity cards
- 4) make it a policy of the council to ensure that national identity cards would not be required to access council services or benefits unless specifically required to do so by law
- 5) only co-operate with the national identity card scheme where to do otherwise would be unlawful
- 6) instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary expressing these views and asking him to reconsider his decision to push forward this legislation.

Proposer: Cllr Coleman

Secunder: Cllr C Rosenstiel

Labour abstained