

Oxfordshire County Council (13 september 2005)

“This Council believes that the introduction of Compulsory Identity Cards would violate traditional British liberties unacceptably, and compromise the rights of British citizens to live lawfully in this society free from arbitrary harassment by agents of the state and other bodies.

The claimed advantages of Compulsory Identity Cards in fighting terrorism, identity theft and benefit fraud, are unlikely to be achieved, and the financial costs are likely to exceed any possible administrative gain. From experiences in other countries, it is clear that racial harmony and tolerance of minorities suffer following the introduction of Compulsory Identity Cards.

It is also likely that a substantial number of people in Oxfordshire will refuse to obtain Identity Cards, even if the carrying of them is declared compulsory by Parliament. Council therefore urges the Cabinet to ensure that recipients of services supplied by the Council are not required to produce a National Identity Card as a condition of receiving any of these services, except where laws may be introduced to force the use of National Identity Cards in specific circumstances.

Proposed: Cllr Alan Armitage
Seconded: Cllr Chris Wise

Passed by 56 to 8.