

Motion on ID Cards

Council notes:

The recent Government bill introducing compulsory ID Cards to the UK

Council believes:

That the disadvantages of such a scheme outweigh any benefits to the people of Newhaven

That the cards will do nothing to prevent terrorism, crime or fraud.

According to Government estimates the cost of such a scheme could reach £6 billion, with independent commentators predicting costs of as much as £18 billion, they estimate cards between £200 and £300 each. On the Government's own predictions, residents of Newhaven will be required to pay an estimated £30 for a stand alone ID card or £93 for a passport and ID card together.

This will hit the most vulnerable and poorest in our society, those on low pay, who usually don't drive, don't go abroad and as a consequence have no need for a driving licence or passport, yet will be forced to pay up to £100 for a card they don't want or need.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Affiliate to the "No2ID" campaign, which already includes MP's across 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 called to do so by an Act of Parliament;
5. Only co-operate with the national identity card scheme where specifically required to do so by law;
6. Write to the Home Secretary expressing these views and asking him to reconsider his decision to push forward with this legislation.