

York (January 27 2004)

This council notes:

- That the UK government is currently going through the Parliamentary process of introducing an ID Cards Bill, establishing a National Identity Register, in which the details of all UK residents over the age of 16 will be logged.

- That this Bill will create an ID card which will include the biometric data of the holder.

- That the Government has estimated that the cost of such a scheme could reach 5.5 billion, with independent commentators predicting costs much higher.

That the current proposal suggests individuals would have to pay significant sums of money for a card that they neither need nor want.

- That there is massive concern among ethnic minority communities as to the impact of such a scheme on race relations and policing.

- That the Government has a poor record on the setting up of national databases, as experience of the Passport Agency and the Criminal Records Bureau reveals.

That there is no evidence to suggest countries with national identity cards are in any way safer from terrorist activity or illegal immigration.

Council believes:

- - That the disbenefits of such a scheme will outweigh any benefits in crime prevention

- That there is reason to believe both that the National Identity Register will cost much more than is currently estimated, and that there will be significant concerns about potential abuses of civil liberties made possible by the scheme.

That the Identity Cards Bill will permanently alter the relationship between the individual and the state.

Council resolves:

- To mandate the Chief Executive to write the Home Secretary, expressing these views and asking him to reconsider his decision to push forward this legislation.

- To make representations at every possible stage, reiterating this Council's opposition to ID cards and its intention to resist any requirement for its residents to produce such a national ID card in order to receive council services.

-To write to the LGA calling on it to adopt a position of opposition to ID cards and for the money saved to be put into funding adequate local government services.

To affiliate to the 'No2ID' campaign, which already includes MPs and several political parties.

Cllr Andy D'Agorne