

Oxford City Council (again, October 3 2005)

"Since it is clear that the re-elected Labour Government intends to push ahead with its plans for Identity Cards, Council reasserts its deep-rooted opposition to the introduction of Identity Cards and a National Identity Register, as expressed in the motion passed overwhelmingly at its meeting on 24th January 2005.

"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 number of people in Oxford will refuse to obtain Identity Cards, even if the carrying of them is declared compulsory by Parliament.

"Oxford City Council therefore resolves not to require recipients of services supplied by the Council to produce an Identity Card as a condition of receiving any of these services, except where laws may be introduced to force the use of Identity Cards in specific circumstances."

Proposed: Cllr. Alan Armitage

Seconded: Cllr. Paul Sargent, Cllr. Caroline van Zy

Passed 31 votes to 5.