

Ceredigion County Council (30th March 2005)

This Council notes:

- 1) That the Home Secretary, Charles Clarke is currently attempting to push an ID Cards Bill through Parliament. This Bill will have an effect upon all of the people of Ceredigion.
- 2) That York, Oxford, Cambridge and Norwich City Councils have already passed motions against ID Cards.

This Council believes:

- 1) That the disadvantages of such a scheme will outweigh any likely benefits to the people of Ceredigion.
- 2) That the scheme will do little, if anything, to prevent terrorism, crime or fraud.
- 3) That the scheme will bear an unnecessarily heavy financial burden on the people of Ceredigion. According to Government estimates, the cost of such a scheme could reach £5.5 billion, with independent commentators predicting substantially higher costs. Ceredigion residents will be required to pay an estimated £35 for a stand-alone ID card or £85 for a passport and ID card together.
- 4) That the national database that underpins the identity card scheme may facilitate criminal fraud, terrorism and potential state abuses of human rights.
- 5) That the long distances that those in rural areas would have to travel to register for this scheme could cause serious difficulties for many people, such as older people or the housebound.
- 6) That the scheme constitutes an attack on individual rights and freedoms that could lead to institutional discrimination and to unfair and unlawful denial of benefits and services.
- 7) That the scheme, in which every person would have to be fingerprinted, have a retina scan taken and have their face digitally mapped, will lead to an increase in state control and surveillance over the individual, and that this will create an unacceptable imposition on every person living in Ceredigion.
- 8) That the scheme will lead to an endemic loss of privacy and freedoms and will present dangers to marginalised, disenfranchised and disadvantaged people.
- 9) That as a result, this identity scheme will imperil the relations between the citizen and the state.

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Affiliate to the 'No2ID' campaign, which already includes MPs and several political parties including the Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru.
- 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.

Proposer: Cllr Mark Cole
Seconder: Cllr Rowland Jones

Supported by Cllr Eric Griffiths, Cllr Alun Lloyd Jones, Cllr Rowland Rees-Evans, Cllr John Roberts, Cllr Owen Jones, Cllr Ceredig Davies, Cllr Carl Williams

Ceredigion County Council have affiliated to NO2ID, 27 votes to 5 (1 abstention)