

## **Luton (Luton county/borough council?) 19 July 2005**

Town Hall rejects ID card plan It won't be fair, says council chief Luton has been urged to tell the government to abandon plans for national ID cards.

A motion was put before the full council asking it to demand that Home Secretary Charles Clarke scrap the scheme labelled "a bureaucratic nightmare".

The 10-point objection raised by Luton Borough Council leader David Franks claimed ID cards would lead to the town's black and Asian communities being unfairly stopped by police and criminals would swiftly be able to make forged cards.

The motion voted on at the meeting, which took place last night after The Luton News went to press, highlighted an independent London School of Economics study that said ID cards could cost up to 19.2 billion.

Mr Franks said: "If the government really wants to make an impact on crime and terrorism, the 18 billion could be better spent on more police officers, more intelligence officers and on the new Serious Organised Crime Agency.

"Police do not generally have a problem identifying the people they arrest. The problems is catching the criminals in the first place.

"The terrorists who attacked New York on September 11, 2001. and Madrid on March 11, 2004, carried valid identity cards."

According to Mr Franks, government claims that the cards would combat illegal immigration could lead to communities, such as Luton's black and Asian population, being unfairly targeted.

Other points opposing the cards included the chance of a large scale IT fiasco and concerns over personal data being shared without consent.

Luton North MP Kelvin Hopkins has also voiced his opposition to ID cards and was one of the Labour rebels who voted against the scheme.