

West Berkshire Council Opposes Compulsory ID Cards (passed July 28 2005)

Proposer: Cllr Jeff Brooks
Seconder: Cllr Denise Gaines

This Council Notes

1. That the Labour Government has returned to its aim of introducing compulsory ID cards for all adults in Britain, including in West Berkshire.
2. That the proposed scheme implies costs to the Council itself in terms of ensuring compatibility of operations.
3. That the Home Secretary when asked whether ID cards would have prevented the recent terrorist atrocities said "I doubt it would have made a difference".
4. That the Government has reported that the scheme will cost £93 per person.
5. That the London School of Economics estimated the cost of cards could be as high £20 billion - three times Government estimates. The LSE put the lowest cost to each individual at £170.
6. That the Labour party received the lowest percentage vote in Britain in the Newbury constituency in 2005 following their manifesto pledge to introduce ID cards.

This Council believes

1. That the introduction of National Identity Cards will do little, if anything, to prevent terrorism, crime or fraud and that the money could be spent more effectively.
2. That it will be an unacceptable burden for the citizens of West Berkshire to be forced to pay for a card without regard to their ability to pay.
3. That this is an unacceptable infringement of civil liberties and a further domination of Government over the citizen.

West Berkshire Council:

1. Will take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the national identity cards.
2. Makes 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 Act of Parliament.
3. Is opposed to the introduction of national identity cards and will write to the Home Secretary to inform him of Council policy.
4. Believes that the estimated 3-5 billion which will be saved by scrapping plans for ID cards should be used to employ 10,000 new police and 20,000 new police community support officers.
5. Affiliates to the 'No2ID' campaign (<http://www.no2id.com/>), alongside other local authorities such as Cambridge City, Watford Borough and the City of York.