

**For general release**

**17 July 2008**

**FOR INFORMATION**

**NOTICE OF MOTION ON IDENTITY CARDS**

- 11.16 The Cabinet considered the following Notice of Motion submitted to Council on 24 April 2008 by Councillors Kitcat and Randall.
- 11.17 This council notes that the Home Secretary has announced that some foreign nationals will begin carrying ID Cards in November 2008 with some UK citizens to start receiving the cards in 2009. The introduction of these cards will have an effect upon all of the people of Brighton & Hove. This council believes that:
1. The disadvantages of such a scheme will outweigh any likely benefits to the people of Brighton & Hove;
  2. The scheme will do little, if anything, to prevent terrorism, crime or fraud;
  3. The national database that underpins the identity card scheme may facilitate criminal fraud, terrorism and potential state abuses of human rights;
  4. The ID card and database proposals are likely to fundamentally alter the relationship between the state and the individual. According to Government estimates, the cost of the scheme will reach £5.5 billion, with independent commentators predicting substantially higher costs. Brighton & Hove residents will be required to pay an estimated £30 for a stand-alone ID card or £93 for a passport and ID card together.
  5. The city's share of the scheme's £5.5 billion cost over ten years would amount to approximately £24 million equivalent to 40 additional police officers on our streets for the next ten years.

This council resolves to:

1. Affiliate to the 'No2ID' campaign, which already includes MPs and several political parties;
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 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 cards scheme where to do otherwise would be unlawful;
6. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary expressing these views and asking her to reconsider her decision to push forward with this scheme.

11.18 The Chairman invited Councillor Kitcat to speak to the motion.

11.19 Councillor Kitcat addressed the Cabinet on the substantive points of the motion.

11.20 In reaching their decision the Cabinet also considered the petition as presented by Councillor Kitcat at item 8.5.

11.21 **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Notice of Motion be noted.
- (2) That the principle of the motion be recognised and that relevant intervention be undertaken as and when Government begin formal consultation or initiation of the project.