

Motion submitted by Councillor Tierney

Opposing the Government's Digital ID Scheme

Council notes the declared policy intent by Keir Starmer's Labour Government of plans to introduce a mandatory Digital ID scheme for all UK residents.

Council also notes the proposal:

- Is clearly a significant infringement on our civil liberties
- Could make it necessary for citizens of the UK to register a Digital ID to access public services and entitlements.
- Is likely to be a hugely expensive project, wasting billions on a project nobody voted for and is hugely unpopular.
- Claims to be aimed at reducing illegal working and illegal immigration but offers little in those respects, while potentially being the first step down a dark road of authoritarian control.
- Potentially links many aspects of an individual's life into a single identity that then becomes a huge risk in the event of hacking, misuse or cyber-attack.
- Creates a dependency on technology so that if a phone or an internet connection is lost there is huge potential for harm and hardship.
- Excludes people who don't have good technology access which could include the elderly, people in very rural areas, the homeless, people with low incomes, people with learning difficulties.
- Has already triggered a huge national petition, with millions of people signing their opposition to the plans. Even locally, Stephen Barclay MP's petition secured over 1000 signatures.

Council believes that Labour's scheme:

- Represents an expensive measure that will undermine public trust.
- Will do nothing to address the real issues facing our community.
- Is a directly attack on our core British values of liberty and privacy.

Council resolves:

- To strongly oppose the Labour Government's Digital ID plans.
- To request the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, our local Member of Parliament, and the Minister for Digital Infrastructure to express our horror at this scheme and to call for these plans to be scrapped.