



News Report

from Philip Bradbourn MEP

Working for Worcestershire

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MEP discusses European funding with Worcester councillors

West Midlands Conservative MEP, Philip Bradbourn OBE met councillors in Worcester on Thursday to examine how the City could benefit from EU funding when the new budgetary period begins in 2013. Budget freezes and the accession of new states to the EU will make it harder to access European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) but there will be funding available across the EU to help in rolling out rural broadband and to tackle transport bottlenecks.

The newly appointed UK Conservative Spokesman on the influential EU Budgetary Control Committee pledged to hold the EU to account through the Committee and criticised the previous Labour Government for wasting much of the funding which came to the West Midlands on projects which were either of no lasting value or simply failed to meet their objectives.

He also listened to concerns that Labour's method of using Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), now being thankfully wound up, to distribute EU funding had channelled it away from areas like Worcester.

Speaking after the meeting Mr Bradbourn said; **“Councillors in Worcester were very positive and they had some good ideas. In my new role as UK Conservative Spokesman on the EU Budgetary Control Committee I will work hard to see that every penny of expenditure is accounted for so that the region can benefit from EU investment. There will be some exciting possibilities for Worcestershire such as investment in rural broadband and I look forward to working with local Councillors to bring these projects to reality.”**

ENDS

Notes to the Editor

1. Philip Bradbourn OBE MEP met with councillors on Thursday 9th February 2012
2. For more information please contact Gary Ridley on 016 7653 0621.
3. Attached is a photograph of Philip Bradbourn discussing EU Funding in the Guildhall, Worcester for media use.