



News Report from Philip Bradbourn MEP

for
Staffordshire

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Local MEP warns of mounting cost of EU legislation

Local MEP Philip Bradbourn met with members of the Conservative Group on Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council last Friday to warn of the mounting cost of EU legislation to local communities.

Mr Bradbourn, who is Local Government Spokesman for the Conservatives in the European Parliament, condemned EU proposals to develop a US style 'Blue Card' system designed to attract skills shortages and highly skilled workers to EU countries.

The detail of the proposals are such that after five years the migrant could be entitled to full citizenship rights, full movement within the EU regardless of whether the individual is in employment, the right to bring their family and the right to claim benefits.

Addressing councillors at Newcastle's Carlton Club Mr Bradbourn said:

“this whole proposal is simply the wrong answer to the wrong question. With the UK’s population set to soar to 65m by 2016 and with an already critical shortage of housing, bringing in more workers from outside the EU could result in serious problems for communities.

Britain needs to deal with the rising numbers of illegal immigrants before putting in place systems which could encourage more non EU migrants in the form of permanent work permits. Put simply, we should not be forced to adhere to EU diktat, but remain free to decide our own immigration policies.”

Mr Bradbourn, a leading member of the European Parliament's Transport Committee, also warned against the new Drivers' Rest Hours regulations and the adverse impact this is likely to have on bus and coach drivers in the county. Rural bus networks will be particularly effected.

Speaking from Brussels today Mr Bradbourn said:

“These new regulations from Brussels will have big effects locally, and I continue to push for UK exemption from such measures, otherwise we will be faced with cuts in services and higher fares..”

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For more information please contact Alastair Little in Strasbourg on 00 333 881 77407 or Sean Kelly in the UK on 01676 530 621.