



News Report

from Philip Bradbourn MEP

*for the West
Midlands*

Release: Immediate
Date: 1st March 2010
Brussels: 00 322 284 7407
UK: 01676 530 621

Local Euro MP: “Open Source” planning will help West Midlands residents

Local Conservative MEP Philip Bradbourn today welcomed major new policies from Conservatives to reform England’s ‘broken’ planning system. A new system of ‘Open Source’ democracy and neighbourhood involvement will help deliver sustainable development across the West Midlands. Unelected Quangos will be scrapped, to be replaced with collaborative working and new incentives to promote and reward local homes and jobs.

This comes as official Government surveys show only 1 in 3 people think they can influence decisions in their local area. The main proposals;

- Abolish the undemocratic and ineffective tier of regional planning overseen by unelected quangos.
- Abolish Labour’s new unelected and unaccountable central planning Quango- the Infrastructure Planning Commission, whilst retaining a fast-track process to avoid planning inquiries taking years;

Mr. Bradbourn, Regional Development and Local Government Spokesman for Conservatives in the European Parliament said:

"The Government’s planning system is a source of immense frustration and concern for many residents across the West Midlands.

This new Conservative vision will put West Midlands residents in the driving seat to help shape our local communities, transferring power from Labour’s unelected regional Quangos. This will help to deliver new homes and jobs, whilst championing local democracy and protecting our local amenities. I have long held the belief that Local Councils are in the best position to act on the most local level possible and I welcome these new policies which will see power and funding removed from these costly, bureaucratic, and unaccountable regional bodies."

ENDS

For more information please contact Paul Brannon in the UK on 01676 530 621.