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European Union News

June 18, 2015 Thursday

Residents shocked at Council squandering taxpayers' money on NGT scheme which remains in the balance

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Greg Mulholland MP has issued the following news release:

Local residents in Leeds, and Greg Mulholland, MP for Leeds North West, have expressed shock at a decision to spend £160,000 on surveying highways in preparation for the NGT **Trolleybus** scheme, despite the scheme not having been approved yet.

Local residents recently noticed that Leeds City Council were carrying out surveys on the NGT route, and Mr Mulholland, who objected to the NGT proposals, queried why this money is being spent, when the scheme has not yet been approved, and indeed has met with significant local opposition.

The NGT scheme was the subject of a public inquiry, and whilst that has concluded, the Inspector has yet to publish his report and recommendations, which is expected later this year, after which the Secretary of State will make a final decision.

Leeds City Council has claimed that conducting these surveys before a decision has been made will be more cost effective, and avoid delays should the scheme be given the go ahead. Local residents have however voiced their frustration that taxpayers money is being spent despite no guarantees that the scheme will in fact go ahead.

Greg headshot
Commenting Greg Mulholland said:

"Local residents are overwhelmingly opposed to the scheme, and they and I are very concerned that the Council, which has often complained of a lack of funds, is spending money conducting these surveys before the scheme has been confirmed.

"There is a very good chance that the **Trolleybus** will be cancelled, which residents and I would welcome, and yet Leeds City Council has spent this money pushing ahead.

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