

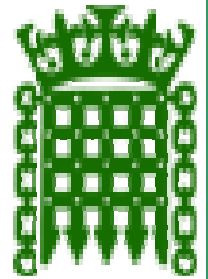


All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group

House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Light Rail & Trams, Affordable & Sustainable Transport

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"TramTrain does it Greener and Cheaper on lightly used railway lines and in the streets"

PRESS RELEASE

Office of Greg Mulholland MP (Leeds North West)

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Leeds City Council never discussed Light Rail option with Minister

In response to Greg Mulholland's question in the House of Commons, light rail minister Paul Maynard has revealed that Leeds City Council have not discussed with him the possibility of a light rail system for the city.

This follows the scrapping of the New Generation Trolleybus (NGT) proposals in May, and government's announcement the following month that Leeds could keep the £173.5 million that had been allocated for the NGT scheme.

The lack of any discussion is all the more surprising following Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Combined Authority having long argued that Leeds does need a mass transit light rail scheme.

Only in May, Cllr Judith Blake, Leader of Leeds City Council, said, *"It is deeply frustrating and regrettable that Leeds will remain the largest city in Western Europe without a rapid transit system. The people of the city deserve better"*.

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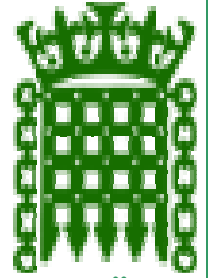


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Furthermore, in response to the scrapping of the NGT proposals, Councillor Keith Wakefield, Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Transport Committee, said that *"we are committed to developing a fully integrated metro-style transport system for the City Region with tram train at its heart and will now work with government to make that a reality."*

Yet, when Greg asked light rail minister Paul Maynard in the House of Commons what discussions had taken place with Leeds City Council about plans for a light rail scheme for the city, Mr Maynard said that no discussions had taken place.

Commenting, Greg said:

"It is extraordinary that despite telling the people of Leeds that the city needed a mass transit light rail scheme, it now turns out the council had never discussed the matter with the minister! This is yet further evidence about the lack of ambition that Leeds City Council have for our city."

"The £173.5 million, with the additional £81 million from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, brought the total size of the pot to over £250 million. This money was meant to be used for a major and ambitious strategic scheme for the city. Instead the council want to fritter it away on a series of smaller measures. The money must not be allowed to be spent on things that do not deliver a major, strategic scheme for our city."

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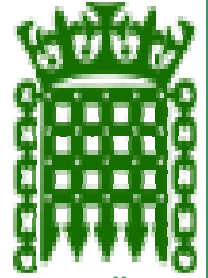


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[ENDS]

Notes to Editors:

For more information, contact Mo Saqib (Parliamentary Researcher to Greg Mulholland MP) on saqibm@parliament.uk or 0207 219 3833

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