

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 11 April

Andrew Leadsom appointed Economic Secretary to the Treasury

Andrea Leadsom MP has been appointed Economic Secretary to the Treasury, leading on issues such as environment and transport taxation, energy policy and climate change and excise duties. This appointment followed the resignation of Maria Miller MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Sajid Javid MP has taken on the role of Culture Secretary with Nicky Morgan MP being promoted to Financial Secretary.

(Source: gov.uk)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers>

UK automotive benefits from £300m RGF funding

The results of the fifth and latest round of the UK Regional Growth Fund (RGF) have been announced, with the automotive industry securing a substantial slice of the £300 million funding on offer. Eight companies representing the breadth of the sector have been selected for a share of the government RGF funding investment, which aims to create sustainable employment and growth for businesses across the country. Business Secretary Vince Cable, visiting Millbrook Proving Ground – one of the automotive sector beneficiaries – said, “Our Industrial Strategy is creating stable foundations for a sustainable, long-term recovery in which opportunity and growth is fairly spread across the country. The Regional Growth Fund will help increase our exports, expand our capacity for innovation and drive up the quality and range of our skills base and supply chain. The awards we’re announcing today, like that of Millbrook, see every £1 of government funding leveraging in £6 of private capital. They will support sectors from aerospace and automotive to tourism, and the benefits will be felt into the mid 2020s and beyond. The following automotive companies were successful in Round 5 of the Regional Growth Fund: Aston Martin Lagonda; Cummins; Gestamp Tallent; Maier UK; Millbrook Proving Ground; MTCE; TRW Systems; Sertec. With the sixth and last round of the

Regional Growth Fund taking place later in the year, Business Minister Michael Fallon urged companies to put their names forward. “I’d strongly encourage any firms that can generate significant private sector investment and sustainable jobs to bid for a share of the next round we’re launching this summer,” he said. (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2014/04/uk-automotive-rgf-funding/>



£100m to support domestic supply chains and create new jobs announced

Business Secretary Vince Cable has announced £100 million to help companies strengthen their domestic supply chains and create or safeguard thousands of jobs through the Advanced Manufacturing and Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI). The new funding will provide support for the increasing trend of ‘reshoring’, as companies bring manufacturing back to the UK from abroad. Four previous rounds of funding have secured nearly half a billion pounds of public-private investment to 44 projects including more than 180 organisations, directly creating or safeguarding more than 15,000 jobs. The scheme has indirectly created or safeguarded a further 15,000. Companies across England looking to strengthen their supply chains through capital investments, research and development, and skills training will be able to start bidding for funding later in the Spring. Commenting on the announcement, Dr Cable stated: “strong manufacturing sector is vital to a balanced economic recovery, and I want to ensure that Britain’s supply

chains are up to the task of supporting the sector in the long term. Our industrial strategy, which has given business the confidence to invest, is paying dividends in the reshoring we have seen so far. We will continue to support businesses to secure more highly skilled jobs and a stronger economy”

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vince-cable-100-million-to-support-domestic-supply-chains-and-create-new-jobs>

Revised statutory guidance for careers advice published

Minister of State for Skills and Enterprise, Matthew Hancock MP, has published a revised statutory guidance, “Careers guidance and inspiration in schools”, which will be effective from September 2014. The revised guidance:

- strengthens the requirement for schools to build links with employers
- sets a clear framework for the provision of advice and guidance
- emphasises the need to provide pupils with direct experience of the world of work, a clear view of the labour market and a good understanding of progression routes through education, including apprenticeships and university
- highlights the benefits of pupils having face-to-face discussions to explore career ideas with a range of people including alumni, careers advisers, coaches, mentors and other inspiring individuals
- sets out clearly how schools will be held to account, confirming Ofsted’s intention to take greater account during school inspections of the quality of careers guidance and of pupils’ destinations

Mr Hancock noted that this document sits alongside new accountability structures published recently, which will hold schools to account for pupil destinations, as well as English and mathematics and exam results.

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/careers-guidance>

TfL announces continuation of Industrial HGV Task Force

Transport for London (TfL) has announced that the Industrial HGV Task Force (IHTF) is being continued in the capital following a successful six-month trial. Funded by Transport for London (TfL) and the Department for Transport (DfT) the Task Force, which aims to crackdown on non-compliant HGV operators and drivers, is formed of officers from the Metropolitan Police Service, City of London Police, and Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA). Since the start of the trial in October 2013, this intelligence led enforcement has seen over 1,960 vehicles targeted and stopped, 24 vehicles seized, 15 prosecutions progressed through the Criminal Justice System and 519 fixed penalty notices issued for offences.

(Source: TfL)

<http://origin.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/media/newscentre/29947.aspx>



Week ahead

House of Commons

The House of Commons is in recess until Monday 28 April.

House of Lords

The House of Lords is in recess until Tuesday 6 May.