

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 19 June

Select Committee Chairs confirmed

MPs voted to elect the Chairs of the 27 select committees of the House of Commons this week. This is only the second time in the history of the House of Commons that members of the whole House have voted to elect select committee Chairs. Chairs of the key select committees for the automotive industry are:

- Louise Ellman (Lab) – Transport Committee
- Ian Wright (Lab) – BIS Committee
- Huw Irranca-Davies (Lab) – Environmental Audit
- Neil Paris (Con) – DEFRA
- Angus MacNeil (SNP) – DECC
- Andrew Tyrie (Con) – Treasury Committee
- Nicola Blackwood (Con) – Science and Technology
- Neil Carmichael (Con) – Education

The next step is for Committee members to be elected.

(Source: Parliament)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2015/june/nominations-close-for-committee-chairs/>

Companies to support apprenticeship recruitment

Business Secretary Sajid Javid has announced a new scheme to place apprentices in small and medium companies quoted on AIM, London Stock Exchange's growth market for ambitious small and medium businesses. The London Stock Exchange Group Foundation has committed an initial £20,000 to underwrite the cost of administering the scheme. The scheme will be run by the educational charity City Gateway. This scheme is part of government's commitment to create 3 million apprenticeships by 2020.

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britains-fastest-growing-companies-to-support-apprenticeship-recruitment>

Labour leadership contest

The final line-up of those bidding to succeed Ed Miliband as Labour leader is now complete. Deputy leader Harriet Harman said she will stand down once a new leader and deputy leader are elected. The four contestants are:

- Liz Kendall: first elected in 2010 as MP for Leicester West. She is a former special adviser to Harriet Harman and then Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt.
- Andy Burnham: Labour MP for Leigh since 2001. Mr Burnham served as health secretary under Gordon Brown and previously as Culture Secretary and Chief Secretary to the Treasury. He stood for the leadership in 2010 but lost out to Ed Miliband.
- Yvette Cooper: former Chief Secretary to the Treasury as well as Work and Pensions Minister under Gordon Brown, Yvette Cooper has been Shadow Home Secretary for the past four years.
- Jeremy Corbyn: A vice-chair of CND and a columnist for the Morning Star, Mr Corbyn has frequently been at odds with his party over the past 20 years, opposing the Iraq war and other foreign interventions and backing public ownership of the banks.

The contenders for Deputy Leadership are Caroline Flint, Tom Watson, Stella Creasy, Angela Eagle and Ben Bradshaw.

(Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-32654262>



EU Referendum: MPs form 'Out' support group

Seven eurosceptic MPs from three parties have formed a group to act as a precursor to the Out campaign in the referendum on leaving the EU. The 'exploratory committee for the EU referendum' includes former Tory cabinet minister Owen Paterson and UKIP's only MP, Douglas Carswell. The committee for the EU referendum also includes Conservatives Steve Baker and Bernard Jenkin, as well as longstanding Labour eurosceptics Kate Hoey, Kelvin Hopkins and Graham Stringer. The committee says it is "urgently" seeking to "promote co-operation amongst those who might contribute to an Out campaign". The BBC's political correspondent Robin Brant said that while this was not the launch of the official No campaign, the move effectively heralds the start of the fight to get the UK out of the European Union. The committee's members, he added, have been meeting since the election and have now gone public. Donors and professional campaigners are being approached. 50 Conservative MPs have also created a group, Conservatives for Britain, to pre-prepare to campaign for an 'out' vote in the EU referendum if David Cameron cannot win radical reforms from Brussels. (Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-33194857>

Labour launches EU 'Yes' Campaign Group

Labour has launched its own pro-EU campaign group this week. The pro-Europe campaign group was launched by nearly 70 Labour MPs in a bid to put forward a distinctive pro-European voice. The group, Labour Yes will try to counter any suggestion that Labour should use the referendum to oppose the EU. The group will co-ordinate Labour MPs to speak up in European debates in parliament, make the case in constituencies and reach out to businesses, trade unionists, universities and other organisations that have an interest in Britain's future position in Europe. The group's formation comes after intense Shadow Cabinet discussions over whether Labour should participate in a cross-party campaign, including business representatives and the Tories, to make the case for Europe during the referendum. There appears to be a consensus that Labour should join the cross-party group, but also run its own Labour for Europe campaign. (Source: The Guardian)

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/jun/14/labour-party-forms-pro-europe-campaign-group>

CBI President-Designate nominated

The CBI announced that Paul Drechsler CBE, Chairman of diversified international firm Bibby Line Group, has been nominated to succeed Sir Mike Rake as President of the UK's leading business group. CBI members will be asked to endorse Mr Drechsler's appointment as President at the Annual General Meeting on 13 July. It follows his nomination by the Chairmen's Committee in a process led by the current President Sir Mike Rake. The CBI President plays a leading role in the organisation's advocacy work, meeting with ministers and senior civil servants, promoting UK business internationally and chairing the CBI Board.

(Source: CBI)

<http://news.cbi.org.uk/news/paul-drechsler-cbe-nominated-cbi-president-designate/>

Week ahead

Tuesday 23 June

Commons Chamber

- Main business: European Union (Finance) Bill

Wednesday 24 June

Lords Chamber

- Main business: City and Local Government Devolution Bill (Committee day 2 of 3)

Thursday 25 June

Commons Chamber

- 9:30am: Energy and Climate Change questions

