

Business Secretary at SMMT Parliamentary Reception

SMMT hosted its annual Summer Parliamentary Reception on Tuesday 30 June. The reception was attended by over 25 parliamentarians including Robert Goodwill MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, and Baroness Neville-Rolfe, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Intellectual Property. The reception was sponsored by Richard Burden MP, Shadow Transport Minister and Chair of the All Parliamentary Party Motor Group. In his welcome address Mr Burden highlighted the progress the industry has made and noted the importance of industrial strategy offering support and continuity to the sector. The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Business attended the reception as keynote speaker. Mr Javid praised the strength of UK automotive and highlighted that this government's focus would be on boosting productivity and exports, noting that the work of the sector councils would be continued. (Source: SMMT)

SMMT launch Sustainability Report

SMMT launched its [16th Automotive Sustainability Report](#) at an event on Tuesday 30 June. Sustainability is a key priority for the UK automotive industry as the sector continues to make progress on environmental, social and economic performance. At the launch, a panel of speakers including Tony Walker, Deputy Managing Director, Toyota Manufacturing UK, Jonathan Tillson, Head of Sustainable Business at Defra, and Jon Beasley, Director of Technology & Projects, Advanced Propulsion Centre discussed the report with an audience of key industry stakeholders. Key findings of the report include:

- Manufacturing output, vehicle sales, jobs and export values grew, while the environmental impact from vehicle production has been reduced dramatically
- Latest figures confirm an upward trend for new vehicle demand and manufacturing output
- Last year, car production grew to 1.53 million units – the highest level since 2007

- UK car output is expected to reach an all-time record level of 1.95 million vehicles in the next two years
- Investment in more efficient, high-tech manufacturing processes has led to huge gains in productivity
- Total waste to landfill from all automotive production fell by more than a quarter (26.3%) in 2014, and an exceptional 92.3% since 2000
- Water and energy use fell by 10.7% and 10.4% respectively
- CO2 emissions per vehicle produced fell by 5% compared with 2013

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2015/06/uk-automotive-announces-record-69-5-billion-turnover-as-sector-accelerates-to-historic-high/>

TfL launches consultation on changes to taxis

Transport for London (TfL) has launched a consultation on proposed changes to taxi and private hire vehicle licensing ahead of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), which will be introduced in central London in 2020. The consultation contains two key proposals:

1. From 1 January 2018, all newly licensed taxis – and new Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs) – must be Zero Emission Capable (ZEC). The proposals will be supported by a £65m fund to encourage the take up of new vehicles.
2. Retaining the existing 15 year age limit for all taxis and to encourage retirement of the oldest most polluting taxis through a voluntary decommissioning scheme. From 2017, drivers of taxis over 10 years old would be able to claim up to an additional £5,000, with the precise amount depending on the age of their vehicle.

The consultation, which will run for 6 weeks from today until Tuesday 11 August, will be available [online](#).

(Source: TfL)

<http://bit.ly/1gbaXv1>

Veto announced for English MPs

Government will give MPs from English constituencies a new "veto" over laws affecting England only. Commons Leader Chris Grayling said the change, also applying in some cases to Welsh MPs, would bring "real fairness to our constitutional arrangements". Labour said it was an "outrage" that ministers wanted to rush into making "profound constitutional change". Shadow Commons leader Angela Eagle said the plans risked creating two classes of MPs and accused the Conservatives of attempting to "manufacture itself a very much larger" majority in the Commons. Under the proposals, all MPs would continue to vote on all key stages of legislation. But English MPs will have a veto in Westminster when debating matters that have been devolved to the devolved administrations. MPs will debate the changes on 15 July. With more powers set to be devolved to the Scottish Parliament after September's independence referendum, Tory MPs disagree with the right of MPs representing Scottish constituencies to vote on laws affecting England only.

New system

- The Speaker will judge which parts of a bill relate to just England, or England and Wales
- An England-only committee stage will consider bills deemed "England-only in their entirety"
- Membership of this committee will reflect the number of MPs each party has in England
- Where sections of legislation relate only to England or England and Wales, agreement of a "Legislative Grand Committee" will be required

(Source: BBC)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-33351688>



Pure electric double-decker London bus trial announced

The world's first purpose-built purely electric double-decker bus will enter passenger service in London this year, Mayor Boris Johnson announced, as he hosted representatives and major bus manufacturers from across the globe at City Hall for the first global Clean Bus Summit. The Clean Bus Summit and new trial form part of the Mayor's plan to halve NOx emissions from the bus fleet by the end of his term in office in 2016, compared to 2008.

(Source: Greater London Authority)

<http://london.gov.uk/media/mayor-press-releases/2015/06/pure-electric-double-decker-london-bus-trial-announced-at-world>

Week ahead

Monday 6 July

Lords Chamber

- Main business: European Union (Approvals Bill): Second Reading

Tuesday 7 July

Lords Chamber

- Debate on the report from the European Union Committee on the post-crisis EU regulatory framework

Wednesday 8 July

Commons Chamber

- Budget statement
- Adjournment debate: long term economic plan for the South West of England

Lords Chamber

- European Union (Finance) Bill: Second Reading and remaining stages

Thursday 9 July

Commons Chamber

- Continuation of the Budget debate

Westminster Hall

- 1:30pm: Elected Mayors and the future of local government