

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 22 July

### UK's first privately funded nationwide EV charging network launched

This week Chargemaster plc announced that it will launch the UK's first privately funded nationwide electric vehicle charging network in September 2011. By the end of 2012 the scheme, named POLAR, will be in around 100 towns and cities across the UK, with approximately 40 points in each area, providing a total of 4,000 charging bays. Chargemaster is working with the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) to ensure its network complements the government-supported Plugged in Places charging areas. Transport Secretary Philip Hammond commented, "Today's announcement by Chargemaster is exactly the kind of private sector led initiative that we need to drive the development of our national network of recharging infrastructure". (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2011/07/chargemaster-announces-launch-of-uks-first-privately-funded-nationwide-ev-charging-network/>

### UK car manufacturing up 4.1% over first half of 2011

Figures announced this week by SMMT show UK car manufacturing rose by 1.8% in June, with a total of 120,036 cars being produced during the month. This follows the trend of positive growth this year, with car manufacturing figures for the first half of 2011 up 4.1% on 2010 figures. Commercial vehicle production figures are less positive, as output fell by 2.2% in June and was down 4.9% over the first six months of 2011; however total vehicle production for the first half of 2011 is still up 3.3% on 2010. UK engine production also showed growth, up 0.8% in June and 4.7% over the first six months of 2011. Paul Everitt, Chief Executive of SMMT, stated: "UK vehicle manufacturing saw a welcome return to growth in June, with strong demand from key export markets. Sustained investment in R&D, skills and new products by the UK automotive industry is helping to rebalance

the economy, but there remain significant challenges. The economic recovery is still fragile, so government and industry must focus their energies on encouraging growth and maintaining UK competitiveness".

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2011/07/smmt-uk-automotive-manufacturing-june-2011/>



### Education Committee publishes "Participation by 16-19 Year Olds in Education and Training" report

The House of Commons Education Select Committee has this week published its report: "Participation by 16–19 Year Olds in Education and Training", focusing on the Government's plan for implementing the proposals made by Lord Leitch in his Review of Skills. The report outlines the Committee's support for the focus on apprenticeships but urges the Government to protect quality at the same time as increasing participation. The report also states the Committee's view that it does not support recommendations for payments to employers taking on apprentices, and instead believes that the main motive for an employer should be to make a long-term investment in their workforce for the benefit of their staff and for good business reasons. The report also urges the Department for Education to fund the National Careers Service to provide face-to-face careers advice for young people, and strongly criticises the Government's withdrawal of the Education

Maintenance Allowance, and subsequent bursary scheme. (Source: Parliament.uk)  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmeduc/850/850i.pdf>

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## Manufacturers asked to take up the Red Tape Challenge

Manufacturing businesses up and down the country are being asked to play their part in cutting bureaucracy and red tape in the latest phase of a government initiative to reduce the burdens on British businesses. For the next three weeks the Red Tape Challenge will focus on 140 different regulations that manufacturers and producers have to deal with every day. The Challenge asks whether the regulations are good and should be retained or if they are burdensome or redundant and should be scrapped. The campaign also asks for suggestions on how regulations can be improved or simplified to reduce the burden that they place on businesses but maintain protections for employees, consumers and the public. Mark Prisk, Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, stated: "Our manufacturing sector is at the centre of our plans to rebalance the economy and promote sustainable private sector growth. That's why cutting back the bureaucracy and the red-tape that you have to deal with every day is one of my main priorities. I want our manufacturers to be making things, not filling out forms". (Source: BIS)  
<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=420502&NewsAreaID=2>



## Week ahead

### House of Commons

The House of Commons is in recess. The House will next sit on Monday 5 September 2011.

### House of Lords

The House of Lords is in recess. The House will next sit on Monday 5 September 2011.