

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 24 July

London Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Delivery Plan

Transport for London published its Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Delivery Plan this week. It sets out a vision for ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs) to be the preferred option in London for public transport, fleet and private vehicle owners. It sets out what has been achieved so far and provides an action plan to address the specific issues and challenges currently limiting ULEV uptake in London. The document includes a 15 point action plan to address specific issues. Actions range from deploying a rapid charge point network to implementing local air quality schemes. The full ULEV Delivery Plan can be accessed [here](https://tfl.gov.uk/cdn/static/cms/documents/ulev-delivery-plan.pdf). (Source: TfL)

Best semester for UK car manufacturing since 2008

Figures released by SMMT show that British car manufacturing delivered a strong performance in June with volumes up 5.4% over the same month last year. 143,759 cars were built in the month, with production for export (up 9.0%) outperforming that for the domestic market (down 7.1%) – a reversal of the trend seen in previous months. June's rise led the sector to its best half-year output since 2008: 793,642 cars rolled off UK production lines between January and June – up 0.3% on the same period last year, equating to more than three every minute. The news comes amid further evidence that the sector is leading the way on productivity. New figures reveal that the sector achieved £100,000 in value added per employee in 2014 compared with £74,000 in 2010 – a 35% increase. The performance is particularly impressive when set against the £50,000 average per employee for the UK economy as a whole. With production volumes up more than 50% since 2009 and significant investments still to be realised – a raft of brand new models are set to hit production lines in the coming months – the UK car industry is growing on a global scale. While the sector is enjoying robust

demand in the domestic market, it is not immune to external influences. With economic and political instability in some global markets, it is essential the UK retains its competitive leadership, attracting investment to stimulate innovation, productivity and employment. (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2015/07/best-half-year-for-uk-car-manufacturing-since-2008-as-productivity-accelerates/>

British CV production rises 30% in first half of 2015

Figures released by SMMT show that British commercial vehicle manufacturing grew by more than a quarter in the first six months of the year. Almost 50,000 CVs were built between January and June – a 29.9% growth compared to the same period in 2014. Growth has been fuelled by demand both in the UK and Europe, with production for the domestic market rising 31.6% and exports recording a 28.3% increase so far in 2015. June saw a particularly robust performance with nearly 10,000 CVs produced – a 54.5% rise. (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2015/07/cv-production-june-2015/>

Government announces details of 2015 Spending Review

Government announced details of its Spending Review 2015 this week. The Chancellor will publish the review on 25 November. The review will set out how government plans to deliver £20 billion of fiscal consolidation to achieve the ambition of clearing the deficit by 2020. HM Treasury has [published a document](#) outlining the scope of the review, timings, and process and priority areas for spending. Representative bodies, interest groups and individuals are invited to submit written representations to HM Treasury by 4 September 2015. (Source: HM Treasury)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/spending-review-launched-by-chancellor>

Bid for share of £20 million plug-in taxi prize

Eight cities received a boost in their bid to win part of a £20 million fund to increase the number of plug-in taxis. The shortlist of 8 potential winning schemes will each receive a government-backed study into providing more environmentally-friendly travel opportunities in their area. The studies will gather vital information into how local authorities could use the money to reduce the upfront cost of purpose-built taxis and install charging infrastructure for taxi and private hire use. Government will announce the winning schemes in April 2016. Local authorities who are not shortlisted are still able to submit bids for a share of the £20 million fund, but will have to cover the cost of their own feasibility study.

(Source: DfT)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boost-for-8-cities-bid-for-share-of-20-million-plug-in-taxi-prize>

Innovation funding for connected and autonomous vehicles announced

Government has announced the details of a new fund that will allow businesses to apply for a share of £20 million to develop new products and services for connected and autonomous vehicles. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is to invest in new vehicle developments in the areas of connectivity, autonomy and customer interaction, and to support new business models. This competition is part of a £100 million investment by the UK government in research and development of intelligent mobility announced in the March 2015 Budget and will be delivered by Innovate UK. Trials of driverless cars are already under way in Greenwich, Bristol, Milton Keynes and Coventry as part of a plan to make the UK a major global player in intelligent-vehicle technologies. In this competition, projects will be expected to look at a range of issues including security and trustworthiness, vehicle communications, data acquisition, interaction with other road users, research into public acceptance, safety, help for an ageing population, and vehicle trials. Most of the money will fund larger research and development projects, but up to £2.5 million has also been set aside for smaller feasibility studies.

Competition information

- projects are open to businesses of any size
- collaborative R&D projects are expected to last up to 3 years and to range in total size from £1 million to £5 million
- feasibility studies are expected to last up to 12 months and to range in total size from £50,000 to £250,000
- small businesses could receive up to 70% of their costs, medium-sized businesses 60%, large businesses 50%
- registration deadline for both types of project is at noon on 23 September 2015
- a briefing to highlight the main features of the competition will be held in London on 4 August 2015

(Source: Innovate UK)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/driverless-vehicles-apply-now-for-business-innovation-funding>

Accounting rules extended

Government has announced its intention to enhance its existing accounting rules giving US and Japanese companies moving to the UK up to 4 years to adopt British accounting principles for their group accounts. This measure is expected to reduce the cost of settling in the UK for eligible companies. The measures were originally introduced on a temporary basis in 2012 and allowed companies listed on the US or Japanese stock exchange 3 years to transition accounting practices when moving to Britain. Under the new rules the transition period has been increased to 4 years to provide further flexibility. Government has published a [review of the 2012 rules](#) that evaluates the effectiveness of the measures and concludes that a transition period should be permanently offered to companies listed on US or Japanese stock exchanges.

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-extends-accounting-rules-making-it-easier-for-american-and-japanese-companies-to-call-the-uk-home>

Week ahead

The House of Commons and House of Lords are on summer recess until 7 September