

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 18 September

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### Labour leadership: Jeremy Corbyn elected

Jeremy Corbyn has been elected leader of the Labour party. He won with nearly 59.5% of first-preference votes, beating rivals Andy Burnham, who trailed on 19%, and Yvette Cooper who received 17%. Liz Kendall came last on 4.5%. Tom Watson was elected as Deputy Leader of the Labour Party. This week, Jeremy Corbyn also named his shadow cabinet.

Members include:

- John McDonnell, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Angela Eagle, Shadow First Secretary of State and Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
- Lilian Greenwood, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport
- Lisa Nandy, Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change
- Kerry McCarthy, Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Seema Malhotra, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury
- Lucy Powell, Shadow Secretary of State for Education

The party are due to announce the full details of the shadow departmental teams in the coming days.

(Source: [The Guardian](#), [Labour](#))

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### Government launches air quality consultation

Government launched a [consultation](#) this week to seek views from local and transport authorities, businesses and members of the public on what local action can be taken to improve air quality. Plans for how UK towns and cities can reduce emissions and create cleaner neighbourhoods and high streets have been released alongside a national framework that seeks to bring the UK into compliance with limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in a number of areas by 2020 and in London by 2025. The plans released outline how new, green technology can be exploited to create communities where people want to live and work,

whilst boosting the growing economy and making Britain a world leader in low emission technology. Building on similar schemes across the UK, the plans ask local authorities who are facing particular challenges to look at further action such as creating Clean Air Zones, introducing low emission buses and taxis, and using data to inform new road layouts.

Options local authorities can consider include:

- networks of electric car charging points
- introducing low emission buses and taxis or converting fleets
- upgrading cycling infrastructure
- introducing or expanding park and ride schemes

The consultation closes on 6 November.

(Source: [DEFRA](#))

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### FSB Survey: Half of British small businesses would vote to stay in EU

Almost half (47%) of British small business owners would vote to stay in the European Union if the upcoming referendum on the UK's membership of the bloc was held today (17 September), according to a [new survey](#). 40.9% of those surveyed said they would vote "No", with 10.7% undecided in a poll of 6,263 of the Federation of Small Businesses' (FSB) 200,000 members. Of those owners who would vote "Yes", over a third (34.7%) wanted to see the transfer of EU powers back to Britain. Two thirds of Yes voters (66.7%) were exporters to the EU and 56% of importers from the bloc also backed staying in. Almost half (42.7%) of the No vote would like the UK to concentrate on strengthening its trade links with the rest of the world. 29.1% of No want the UK to withdraw and negotiate individual trade agreements with EU member states. (Source: [Euractiv](#), [FSB](#))

## Enterprise Bill published

Government has published an Enterprise Bill that backs business to drive growth and create jobs. The bill is expected to help tackle late payments holding back some small businesses, ensure high quality apprenticeships, and make further cuts to red tape. The Enterprise Bill will set up a Small Business Commissioner to help small firms handle disputes with larger businesses over issues like late payment. Further measures in the Bill will:

- make regulators report annually on the impact their actions have on business
- improve the business rates appeals system
- stop business ratepayers from having to share the same information twice with local government and the Valuation Office Agency

(Source: [BIS](#))

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## UK inflation rate falls to 0%

The UK's inflation rate fell to 0% in August, down from July's rate of 0.1%, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has said. Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Prices Index, fell due to a smaller rise in clothing prices from a year ago and cheaper fuel prices. CPI inflation has been almost flat for the past seven months. Inflation has failed to take off due to a sharp fall in oil prices and a continuing supermarket price war. Oil prices hit a six-and-a-half year low of around \$42.50 per barrel in late August. The ONS figures also showed that the Retail Prices Index (RPI) measure of inflation rose to 1.1% from 1.0% in July. The rate of core fell to 1.0% in August from the previous rate of 1.2%. Many analysts expect the Bank of England to start to raise interest rates in the first quarter of 2016. Last week, Bank policymakers voted 8-1 to hold rates again, and said the risks from the slowing Chinese economy had increased since August. (Source: [BBC](#))



## KPMG Report - UK manufacturing execs foresee an innovation led future

UK manufacturing executives say that their strategic focus going forward is one that is innovation led, supported by attractive UK corporation taxes like the Patent Box, according to the latest KPMG Global Manufacturing Outlook. The report found that nearly half (48%) of UK manufacturers said that their company's strategic focus is on innovation and that only 2% felt that UK taxes are a challenge to their business in the next 12 – 24 months. The survey of manufacturing executives found that encouragingly, half of the UK respondents said that they plan to spend more than 6% of revenue on research and development and innovation over the next two years, an increase of 21% from what they spent in the past two years. (Source: [KPMG](#))

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## Week ahead

**From Friday 18 September, the House of Commons and the House of Lords will be in recess until 12 October.**

### Party Conferences:

- **Liberal Democrats**  
19 – 23 September in Bournemouth
- **Labour**  
27 – 30 September in Brighton
- **Conservatives**  
4 – 7 October in Manchester
- **SNP**  
15 – 17 October in Aberdeen