

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 21 September

### Transport Committee publishes low carbon vehicle report

The Transport Select Committee has published a report following its recent inquiry into low carbon vehicles. The report 'Plug-In Vehicles, Plugged-In Policy?' looks to comment on government's efforts to stimulate consumer demand for plug-in vehicles and the role of electric vehicle infrastructure. The report examined a number of areas including uptake of low carbon vehicles, interoperability of charging infrastructure and government spending. In its key conclusions the Committee stressed that government must avoid creating instability in the plug-in vehicle market through a lack of consistency between departments in their approaches to financial incentives for plug-in vehicles and adopt a more coordinated approach across Whitehall. It also recommended that government set up milestones for the number of vehicles expected on the roads. SMMT Chief Executive Paul Everitt said: "The automotive industry supports government policies that promote the uptake of low and ultra-low carbon vehicles and the long-term development of this market as part of a wider strategy to deliver industrial growth. The Automotive Council has made excellent progress in establishing the UK as an attractive location for the research, development and manufacture of these technologies and we now need government to commit to incentives beyond 2015 to give confidence to business, consumers and investors". (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/09/low-carbon-vehicle-report-published/>

### TfL orders 600 hybrid buses

Transport for London (TfL) has ordered 600 new hybrid buses as part of the Mayor's New Bus for London pledge. The TfL board approved the order as per the Mayor's election manifesto commitment and expects the 600 buses to be delivered by 2016. The new buses will be manufactured in Northern Ireland by Wrightbus. TfL says that in 2016 there will be over 1,000 hybrid buses running in London, with 180 other

hybrid buses already on order. Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: "These magnificent vehicles not only ooze London style but are a testament to British design, engineering and above all innovation. Not only do they deliver significant environmental benefits, they also reinstate the traditional hop-on, hop-off rear platform and passengers love them. By ordering large numbers of these fantastic machines we are also creating UK jobs." (Source: TfL)

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/media/newscentre/25748.aspx>



### CBI's industrial trends outlook positive for manufacturers

The CBI has published its latest Industrial Trends Survey. 425 manufacturers responded to the survey with 28% expecting to increase their volume of output over the course of the next three months, while 21% expect it to fall. The resulting balance of +7% is in line with the long-run average (+6%) and follows the expectation last month of a flat period for output (0%). Total order books saw an improvement from August (balance of -21%), with 19% of firms reporting them as above normal and 28% stating that order levels were below normal this month. Anna Leach, CBI Head of Economic Analysis, said: "Domestic and overseas demand have improved in this survey following last month's falls, providing a foundation for somewhat better output growth expectations. Manufacturers believe that there will be a modest rise in output over the coming months, driven largely by the chemicals and food and drink sectors. But uncertainty is expected to build through the autumn - with key decisions to be made in the Eurozone and the

approach of the US fiscal cliff - meaning that conditions are likely to remain difficult for UK manufacturers." (Source: CBI)

<http://www.cbi.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/2012/09/moderate-boost-to-output-prospects-as-order-books-improve/>

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## New Transport Ministers' portfolios confirmed

The Department for Transport has confirmed ministerial responsibilities following the recent government reshuffle. New Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin MP has overall responsibility for transport strategy, economic growth and climate change at the Department, as well as transport security and high speed rail strategy. Simon Burns MP replaces Theresa Villiers as Minister of State in the Department covering rail and aviation, he is also responsible for European, international and corporate issues. Stephen Hammond MP replaces Mike Penning MP in the roads brief, responsible for motoring agencies, road safety and standards and freight and logistics. His other responsibilities include Crossrail, maritime, London issues and better regulation. Norman Baker MP remains in post with responsibilities including buses, taxis, regional and local transport, the natural environment, biofuels, and sustainable travel. (Source: DfT)

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/ministers>

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## Week ahead

**The Liberal Democrat Party Conference commences on Saturday 22 September.**

### House of Commons

The House of Commons is in recess

### House of Lords

The House of Lords is in recess