



WEEK IN WESTMINSTER



Week ending Friday 29 October 2010

- 1. Prime minister launches National Infrastructure Plan**
- 2. Government outlines plans for local growth**
- 3. UK output increases by 0.8 per cent from July to September**
- 4. Government announced £200m investment in technology centres**
- 5. Week ahead**

1. Prime minister launches National Infrastructure Plan

Prime minister David Cameron, speaking at the CBI annual conference, launched a National Infrastructure Plan outlining government's vision for the future of UK economic infrastructure. In the Spending Review, government committed over £40 billion to infrastructure projects. This plan marks a fortnight of announcements from government on 'sustainable growth' plans. The National Infrastructure Plan is a joint HM Treasury and Infrastructure UK document, and covers in depth the infrastructure needs of the UK economy – including changes to the planning process. Further to this, transport secretary Philip Hammond has announced a national transport strategy outlining the go-ahead for a further 16 road and public transport schemes amounting to £600m of funding. Prime minister David Cameron said: "This is incredibly exciting, and it shows how, together, we can help create the right framework for growth in which British business can thrive and compete with the rest of the world." (Source: HM Treasury)

hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_56_10.htm

2. Government outlines plans for local growth

Government has published a White Paper setting out their role in allowing locally driven growth, encouraging business investment and promoting economic development. In addition, it sets out government's approach on rebalancing the economy and driving sustainable growth by focusing on local enterprise partnerships, increasing confidence to invest and tackling barriers to growth that the market will not address itself. Proposals for twenty-four local enterprise partnerships were given the green light by Government, in a move that will see local business and civic leaders working together to drive sustainable economic growth and create new jobs in their communities. Business secretary, Vince Cable said: "The knowledge and expertise of the private sector, local authorities and their local communities will be crucial as we work to create a better environment for business and ensure that everyone has access to the opportunities that growth brings." (Source: BIS)

nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=416242&SubjectId=2

3. UK output increases by 0.8 per cent from July to September

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased 0.8 per cent in the third quarter of 2010, compared with an increase of 1.2 per cent in the previous quarter, and is double the 0.4% expected by many analysts. Total production output rose 0.6 per cent in the third quarter of 2010, compared with an increase of 1.0 per cent in the second quarter. Manufacturing made the largest contribution to the growth, where output rose 1.0 per cent compared with an increase of 1.6 per cent in the previous quarter. (Source: Office for National Statistics)

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=192>

4. Government announced £200m investment in technology centres

Government will invest £200m in a network of Technology and Innovation Centres to drive growth in the UK's most high-tech industries. The centres will bridge the gap between universities and businesses, helping to commercialise the outputs of Britain's research base. The centres, which will receive the money over the next four years, will be based on the model proposed by Hermann Hauser and James Dyson. They will also help businesses access new funding streams and point them towards the potential of emerging technologies. The network will be established and overseen by the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) but individual centres will have a high degree of autonomy so they can respond to business needs. The TSB will determine which existing centres to invest in by April next year and will then consider requirements for new centres. (Source: BIS) <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-200-million-investment-in-technology-centres>

5. Week ahead

Commons Chamber

No relevant activity

Lords Chamber

Tuesday 2 November

Main business: Question for short debate on the bus industry (Lord Bradshaw)

Wednesday 3 November

3.00pm Oral Question, to ask government:

What steps they are taking to encourage large companies, with regard to contracts and payments, to act considerately towards small and medium-sized enterprises with which they deal (Lord Steel of Aikwood).

Westminster Hall

Tuesday 2 November

1:30pm - 2:00pm: Government policy on support for women in science, engineering and technology (Meg Munn, Lab, Sheffield Heeley).

Wednesday 3 November

4.30pm - 5.00pm: Rebalancing the UK economy (Mark Field, Con, Cities of London and Westminster).