

## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 31 October

### TfL publishes consultation on proposed London Ultra-Low Emission Zone

Transport for London (TfL) has published its statutory consultation on proposals for an Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in Central London from 7 September 2020. The ULEZ runs until Friday 9 January 2015 and is available online at [www.tfl.gov.uk/ultra-low-emission-zone](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/ultra-low-emission-zone). The proposals would require all vehicles travelling within the Congestion Charge zone to meet new emission standards and would be in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Many vehicles would already meet these standards in 2020, however by introducing this requirement next year the Mayor and TfL aim to accelerate the take up of low emission vehicles and stimulate the low emission vehicle market. The ULEZ is projected to halve emissions of nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate matter (PM10) from vehicle exhausts. The ULEZ current proposals, subject to consultation, would require vehicles travelling in central London to meet the following emissions standards, or pay a daily charge:

- Cars and small vans - Euro 6 for diesel engines (registered from 1 September 2015 so 5 years old or less in 2020) and Euro 4 for petrol engines (registered from 1 January 2006 so 14 years old or less in 2020). Non-compliant vehicles could still drive in the zone but they would be required to pay a daily charge of £12.50
- Large vans and minibuses - Euro 6 for diesel engines (registered from 1 September 2016 so 4 years old or less in 2020) and Euro 4 for petrol engines (registered from 1 January 2007 so 13 years old or less in 2020). Non-compliant vehicles would be required to pay a daily charge of £12.50
- Heavy goods vehicles, buses and coaches - Euro VI (registered from 1 January 2014 so 6 years old or less in 2020). Non-compliant vehicles would be required to pay a daily charge of £100; ·
- Motorcycles and similar vehicles - Euro 3 (registered from 1 July 2007 so 13 years old or less in 2020). Non-compliant vehicles would be required to pay a daily charge of £12.50.

As part of the ULEZ proposal, TfL is also working to reduce emissions from its buses alongside taxis and

private hire vehicles and to increase the number of zero emission capable vehicles.

(Source: TfL)

<https://www.tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2014/october/the-mayor-and-tfl-consult-on-ultra-low-emission-zone>



### UK engine turnover set for £2.5bn surge in two years

Figures published by SMMT show that the revenue generated by engine manufacturing in the UK is expected to increase by up to £2.5 billion in two years, increasing turnover by nearly a third (31%). Over £1 billion has been invested in UK engine production since 2011 and forecasts suggest that the value of engine manufacturing will increase to £10.5 billion by 2016. The UK automotive industry has seen a spate of new investments come to fruition this year, with Jaguar Land Rover's £500 million Engine Manufacturing Centre in Wolverhampton, opening on 30 October, as well as Ford's recently opened £475 million low carbon engine development in Dagenham. These facilities are helping ensure the UK is at the cutting edge of powertrain development and production. Development programmes like these will help total UK engine output surpass three million units per year, increasing volumes by more than a fifth over current levels.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2014/10/uk-engine-manufacturing-turnover/>

## RSA report details final recommendations of the City Growth Commission

The RSA has published a report entitled 'Unleashing Metro Growth' detailing the findings of a 12 month inquiry into how cities can take a new role in the UK's political economy. The report proposes a long-term strategy to devolve power away from the London-centric city growth model, placing emphasis on seeing 'metro cities' realising their true potential as a sustainable alternative to the current model of London dominance. In keeping with the current proposals and political will around 'devo-max', the report argues that for the UK to lead a sustainable path away from the current budget deficit, city areas will be provided with greater areas of responsibility including fiscal controls to see local budgets spent more effectively on infrastructure needs. The report also states that inter and intra city transport developments will be key to the process of seeing cities flourish and as part of the devolution process, support for integrated transport networks will be seen. These proposals have drawn similarities with George Osborne's recent rhetoric on the need for a Northern Powerhouse to effectively compete with London, with Jim O'Neil, chair of the RSA inquiry, calling the blueprint "ManSheffLeedsPool".

<http://www.citygrowthcommission.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/City-Growth-Commission-Final-Report.pdf>

## Prompt Payment advisory board established

Representatives from Aviva, Barclays, Bury Council, City of London Corporation, Fujitsu, Greggs, Skanska and Stort Chemicals will be forming a new advisory board tasked with strengthening the Prompt Payment Code. The Prompt Payment Code sets out principles for businesses to follow when dealing with and paying their suppliers. More than 1,700 businesses and public authorities have so far committed to these principles. This includes the representatives on the new board, who were selected because of their good reputations on payment practices.

The new Prompt Payment Advisory Board will:

- improve monitoring and enforcement of the Code
- promote awareness of the Code
- provide advice on whether there is a need to update the Code

The Advisory Board had its first meeting on 28 October and will aim to implement concrete proposals in Spring 2015.

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-and-industry-join-together-to-tackle-late-payment>

## Jo Swinson responds to Used Car Commission recommendations

Consumer Affairs Minister, Jo Swinson MP, has responded to recommendations proposed by the Used Car Commission. Whilst the commission found that the industry generally works well for consumers, it has identified some areas for improvement. In response, the minister has today called on the commission to take forward its proposals to get a better deal for consumers. The commission will now implement proposals including:

- closer cooperation between the Police and Trading Standards to target organised criminals who steal vehicles for export, clone them or break them up for parts
- the development of a minimum set of requirements for used car codes and trader approval schemes to ensure consumers are better protected and improve customer services
- a focus on information gathering on used cars so current and emerging issues can be quickly identified and acted on by police forces and Trading Standards

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-approach-to-give-second-hand-car-buyers-a-better-deal>



## Government sets out how new safeguards will help reform England's roads

Government has set out how a new 'watchdog' and 'monitor' will help make England's motorways and major roads run better. Under government plans the Highways Agency will soon be transformed into a government-owned company responsible for over 4,300 miles of motorways and major roads – giving the agency more flexibility to manage the road network on a daily basis. Two new bodies – 1 to monitor the performance of the road network and another to champion the needs of road users – will hold the new agency to account for road users, taxpayers and government. The new road monitor will be run by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) to ensure that how the network is managed is more transparent than ever before. This will include taking many of the tools used by economic regulators, including the power to issue fines, to make sure that the new highways company delivers what it has promised and honours the conditions of its licence. User champion Passenger Focus, which represents bus, coach and tram passengers and has worked for rail passengers for more than 60 years, will now represent users of the strategic road network. This includes motorists and business users, as well as cyclists and walkers. This will involve major annual surveys, as well as research into road users' top problems. To reflect this new remit, the organisation has announced it will change its name to Transport Focus, with its existing work carried out by 'Transport Focus – passengers', and its new work under 'Transport Focus – road users'. The reform of the Highways Agency and introduction of the government's long term vision for our road network all form part of the Infrastructure Bill, which was introduced in Parliament earlier this year. Changes also being introduced as amendments to the bill include the power for the ORR to carry out independent enforcement activity if the highways company fails to deliver and new powers expanding the remit of Transport Focus. Both bodies will be awarded more funding and will expand their operations so their existing work will not be affected. (Source: DfT)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-how-new-safeguards-will-help-reform-englands-roads>

## Peter Lauener announced as new Chief Executive of the Skills Funding Agency

Nick Boles, Minister of State for Skills and Equalities, has announced the permanent appointment of Peter Lauener as the Chief Executive of the Skills Funding Agency. He will take up his role on Monday 3 November 2014 and will retain his post as the Chief Executive of the Education Funding Agency (EFA) with separate accountability for each agency's budget. The Skills Funding Agency funds skills training for further education (FE) in England. It supports over 1,000 colleges, private training organisations, and employers with more than £4 billion of funding each year.

(Source: BIS)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/peter-lauener-announced-as-the-new-chief-executive-of-skills-funding-agency>

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## Week ahead

### Commons Committee

Monday 3 November

- Foreign Affairs Committee - Appointment of Lord Hill to the European Commission
- Transport Committee – Motoring of the Future

Wednesday 5 November

- Education Committee – Apprenticeships and traineeships for 16 to 19 year olds

### House of Lords

The Committee stage of the Consumer Rights bill will continue in the Lords Grand Committee on Monday 3 and Wednesday 5 November.