



## WEEK IN WESTMINSTER



Week ending Friday 12 November 2010

- 1. Government publishes departmental business plans**
- 2. Prime minister leads trade delegation to China**
- 3. Mayor's electric vehicle charging network to go live in Spring 2011**
- 4. PM announces new business ambassadors**
- 5. Week ahead**

### **1. Government publishes departmental business plans**

The prime minister has published departmental business plans that set out in detail the work of government for the next four years. The plans include data such as financial information, Structural Reform Plans and departmental priorities. The plans will be refreshed annually and reported upon on a monthly basis. The publication of these plans is a key objective of the coalition government in making government and Whitehall more accountable and transparent, setting in place milestones to set during the course of this parliament. Prime minister David Cameron, deputy prime minister Nick Clegg and the head of the civil service, the cabinet secretary Gus O'Donnell, launched the plans. David Cameron said: "Reform will be driven not by the short-term political calculations of the government, but by the consistent, long-term pressure of what people want and choose in their public services - and that is the horizon shift we need. But more importantly the Business Plans will bring about a power shift by changing what government does." (Source: Number 10)

[transparency.number10.gov.uk/](http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/)

### **2. Prime minister leads trade delegation to China**

Prime minister David Cameron arrived in China with the largest British trade delegation ever to visit the country. The prime minister, the chancellor of the exchequer and other ministers have been joined by 50 British business and education leaders as part of a drive to increase trade between the two countries. Over 40 specific agreements dealing with trade, low-carbon growth and cultural and education initiatives were expected to be signed over the course of the two-day trip. Mr Cameron said: "The trip will provide a further step forward in UK-China relations, adding momentum to our commercial relationship and cementing an economic and political partnership that can help to deliver strong and sustainable growth and greater security for us all in the years ahead." Other issues being discussed include addressing global economic imbalances; the need for the completion of the Doha round of World Trade Organisation talks; progress on low carbon growth; and education co-operation. Following the summit, David Cameron will be travelling to South Korea for the G20 Summit. (Source: Number10)

[www.number10.gov.uk/news/2010/11/pm-leads-largest-ever-trade-delegation-to-china-56796](http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/2010/11/pm-leads-largest-ever-trade-delegation-to-china-56796)

### **3. Mayor's electric vehicle charging network to go live in Spring 2011**

London's city wide electric vehicle charging network, 'Source London', will launch in Spring 2011, the mayor of London, Boris Johnson has announced. Source London, which will deliver 1,300 public charging points across London by 2013, is part of the mayor's plans for London to become the electric vehicle capital of Europe. The Source London network aims to create a single visual identity for electric driving across the capital, and allow members to charge their vehicles at any one of these public charging points for no more than an £100 annual

---

membership fee. In preparation for this new network a website has also been launched providing a 'one-stop-shop' of information on electric vehicles, including charge point locations across the city. Once Source London has been launched in Spring 2011 drivers will be able to sign up for the scheme online. The development of Source London, has been led by Transport for London in close collaboration with the London boroughs and a wide range of private sector partners including SMMT – with some playing a key part in funding and providing locations for the network's charge points. Boris Johnson said: "Major manufacturers are gearing up to launch more affordable, practical electric cars over the next few years, whilst the cost of traditional fuels is making petrol-free driving an increasingly attractive option." (Source: Mayor of London)  
[www.london.gov.uk/media/press\\_releases\\_mayoral/mayor's-electric-vehicle-charging-network-source-london-go-live-spring-](http://www.london.gov.uk/media/press_releases_mayoral/mayor's-electric-vehicle-charging-network-source-london-go-live-spring-)

#### **4. PM announces new business ambassadors**

While visiting China, prime minister David Cameron, reinforced his commitment to international trade by announcing government's new business ambassadors. The appointees, who together have business experience and knowledge gained from a series of sectors and geographical markets, will join the prime minister and government in promoting the UK to overseas markets. Mr. Cameron said: "I am delighted that some of the most experienced and successful people from business and our universities are working with us. To secure sustainable growth and to create jobs and future prosperity it is of critical importance that we do everything we can to demonstrate that the British economy is open for business." A selection of the business ambassadors are: Sir Anthony Bamford – JCB, Richard Lambert – CBI, Chris Patten – Chancellor University Oxford, Nick Fry – Mercedes, Lord John Browne – Royal Academy of Engineering, Lord Ara Darzi – Imperial College London, Julia King – VC Aston University, Sir Kevin Smith – GKN, Dick Olver – BAEs, Lord Digby Jones – HSBC/Triumph and Paul Skinner – Infrastructure UK. (Source: UKTI)  
[www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/media/item/120444.html](http://www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/media/item/120444.html)

#### **5. Week ahead**

##### **Commons Chamber**

Tuesday 16 November  
2.30pm: Oral Questions  
HM Treasury, including Topical Questions

Thursday 18 November  
10.30am: Oral Questions  
Business, Innovation and Skills, including Topical Questions

##### **Commons Committees**

Tuesday 16 November  
10.30am: Business, Innovation and Skills  
Subject: Government Assistance to Industry  
Witness(es): Angela Knight, Chief Executive, British Bankers' Association, Peter Ibbetson, Chairman of Small Business, Royal Bank of Scotland/Natwest, and John Maltby, Commercial Director, Lloyds TSB; TUC and The Work Foundation (at 11.30am)

Tuesday 16 November  
10.45am: Transport  
Subject: Transport and the economy  
Witness(es): Birmingham City Council and Centro; Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, Freightliner, Birmingham International Airport and Birmingham Forward (at 11.25am); London Midland, National Express, Birmingham Retail

Business Improvement District and West Midlands Regional Sustainability Forum  
(at 12.05pm)

Location: The Custard Factory, Birmingham

**Lords Chamber**

Thursday 18 November

11am: Oral Questions

Introduction of lorry road user charging – Lord Berkeley

**Lords Committees**

Monday 15 November

4.15pm: Internal Market, Energy and Transport (EU Sub-Committee B)

Subject: The EU Single Market

Witness(es): Malcolm Harbour MEP; and Louise Grech MEP

Location: Committee Room 2, Palace of Westminster

Tuesday 16 November

10.40am: Science and Technology

Subject: Public procurement

Witness(es): Professor Sir John Beddington, Government Chief Science Advisor; Professor Adrian Smith, Director General, Science and Research, BIS; Professor David Delpy, Chief Executive of the EPSRC; Colin Smith, Director – Engineering and Technology, Rolls Royce plc; Dr Malcolm Skingle, Director, Academic Liaison, GlaxoSmithKline and Jacqueline Steed, MD Wholesale Service Design, BT Innovate and Design; on the Implication of the Comprehensive Spending Review on Scientific Research.

*Location:* Committee Room 4, Palace of Westminster