

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 13 May

Government unveils decade long road strategy

The Department for Transport (DfT) has set out a ten year strategic plan for road safety, in coordination with the UN's Decade of Action for Road Safety. Philip Hammond, Secretary of State for Transport, announcing the framework on 11 May, has set out a range of policies aiming to continue a reduction in deaths and injuries on the UK's roads. Government expects central and local government to continue to prioritise road safety and continue to seek improvements. Equally, government expects local government and service providers to be judged against their actions. Government aims to achieve improvements in road safety in three key areas; through devolving power to local authorities and communities, improving education of drivers and allowing for suitable enforcement of the UK's road network. Government therefore predicts fatalities falling by around 37% to 1,770 by 2020. If from 2020 the low projection can be achieved with the variation in performances at the local authority level narrowing and moving towards the level of the top performers then the UK's roads would see deaths reducing by 57% to around 1,200 and KSIs falling below 10,000 with a reduction of 70% by 2030. Government does not believe this is a target and is an achievable forecast, but government is never the less confident these predictions can be realised. (Source: DfT) www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/strategicframework/

UKTI announces five year strategy

UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) has launched its new corporate strategy, *Britain open for business*, and will be at the centre of government's drive to promote growth through trade and investment. Launched on 10 May 2011, it sets out plans to provide practical support to exporters and inward investors over the next five years. The strategy lays out four pathways to balanced growth; targeting services at innovative and high growth SMEs, winning high value opportunities in overseas markets for UK businesses of all sizes,

delivering high quality inward investment and building strategic relationships at the highest levels with the most significant inward investors. In areas such as automotive research and development low and ultra low carbon development, the UKTI will work with industry to showcase UK strengths and actively support UK-based companies in their drive to win business overseas. A green export campaign will position the UK as a leading provider of low carbon solutions in markets where it is clear we can gain advantage. The campaign, involving trade missions and showcasing events linked to overseas visits by ministers, will be used to generate positive media coverage for UK business. Initially, UKTI will prioritise China, India, Brazil and the west coast of North America, where research has identified the greatest immediate business potential. (Source: UKTI) www.ukti.gov.uk/fr_fr/uktihome/media/item/134000.html



Committee on Climate Change publishes renewable energy review

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has published its Renewable Energy Review. The review was commissioned by government in the May 2010 Coalition Agreement. It requested that the CCC advise on the scope to increase ambition for energy from renewable sources. The overall conclusion in the review is that there is scope for significant penetration of renewable energy to 2030 with a possibility of 45% as opposed to 3% presently today. Higher levels up to

2050 would also be technically feasible. Equally however, the CCC believes it would be possible to decarbonise electricity generation with very significant nuclear deployment and have limited renewable and carbon capture and storage (CCS) may also emerge as a cost-effective technology. The CCC believes the optimal policy for government to pursue a portfolio approach, with each of the different technologies playing a role. The CCC believes that new policies are required by government to support technology innovation and to address barriers to uptake in order to suitably develop renewable as an option for future decarbonisation. A CCC believes that a GIB operating as a bank rather than a fund, in line with the announcement in the March 2011 Budget, would have the flexibility to provide the full range of financing instruments and therefore make best use of government capital. (Source: CCC)

www.theccc.org.uk/reports/renewable-energy-review

Next steps in employment law review

Government has announced new areas that it will consider reforming as part of its review of employment red tape. The ongoing review into employment law is part of government's plans to deliver growth by breaking down barriers, boosting opportunities and creating the right conditions for businesses to start up and thrive. New areas that will be reviewed include collective redundancy consultation periods, Transfer Undertakings Protection of Employment Regulations (TUPE) and compensation for discrimination awarded by employment tribunals. Government will start reviewing these areas this year and wants to ensure that the regulations are fit for purpose, and legislation will not necessarily be the route to implement any change if there is a case for reform. Employment Relations Minister Edward Davey detailed the plans during a speech at the Institute of Economic Affairs. Edward Davey said: "We want to make it easier for businesses to take on staff and grow. We will be looking carefully at the arguments for reform. Fairness for individuals will not be compromised – but where we can make legislation easier to understand, improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy we will." (Source: BIS)

www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2011/May/employment-law-review



Future EVs could make money from the power grid

In research published by Ricardo and National Grid, there could be market potential for an electric plug-in vehicle fleet of the future to provide balancing services to the power grid on a commercial basis, returning value to vehicle owners while improving the carbon efficiency of grid operation. The report, titled *Bucks for balancing: Can plug-in vehicles of the future extract cash – and carbon – from the power grid?* is based on a research collaboration between a team of engineers from Ricardo and National Grid. Using these data and a range of the potential market penetrations of electric plug-in vehicles in the UK market by 2020 together with typical vehicle usage and driver behaviour patterns, Ricardo created a grid simulation model which was designed to model the impact of electric vehicle charging based on a five-minute time step throughout the day. (Source: Ricardo)

www.ricardo.com/en-gb/News--Media/Press-releases/News-releases1/2011/Report-shows-how-future-electric-vehicles-can-make-money-from-the-power-grid/

Mayor hails improvements to road safety in London during last decade

New figures published by the Mayor of London and Transport for London (TfL) show how road safety in London has improved over the last ten years. In the same week that the United Nations declared 2011 to 2020 a Decade of Action for Road Safety, the new TfL figures reveal how deaths and serious injuries on London's roads have dropped by 57% over the last decade. Last year, the first time since records began in the 1970s, the number of fatalities fell below 150 to

126, which represents a 32% reduction compared with 2009, and a 49% reduction since the mid to late nineties. Figures recently published by the Department for Transport (DfT) show that London is considerably below the national average in terms of fatalities at 24 per million people, compared to a UK average of 38 per million. The Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: "A great deal has been achieved in the Capital but if we are to continue to reduce casualty levels we must not lose our focus in this important work and I welcome the UN's Decade of Action."
(Source: TfL)

www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/media/newscentre/19975.aspx

Week ahead

House of Commons

Commons Chamber

Thursday 19 May
10.30am Oral Questions
Energy and Climate Change, including Topical Questions

Westminster Hall Debate

Wednesday 18 May
4pm - 4.30pm: Profile and status of the manufacturing sector - Alison McGovern MP (Lab)

Select Committees

Wednesday 18 May
9.30am Education
Subject: 16–19 participation in education and training
Witness(es): Joanne McAllister, Cumbria County Council 14-19 support team, Professor Tony Watts, Life President, National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling, Martin Doel, Chief Executive, Association of Colleges, Allan Foulds, Head of Cheltenham Bournside School and Sixth Form Centre, Association of School and College Leaders; Brooke House Sixth Form College (at 10.30am) Location: The Wilson Room, Portcullis House

House of Lords

No relevant activity