

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 24 June

Government exceeds expectations in delivering additional apprenticeships

Government has achieved its aim of delivering 50,000 additional apprenticeship places it has confirmed, and has exceeded its target by delivering 103,000 places over the 2010-11 financial year. Government aims to deliver 250,000 additional apprenticeship places by the end of the current Parliament. Business Secretary Vince Cable said: "The growth in apprenticeships to over double the planned ambition, including sectors such as IT, advanced manufacturing and engineering demonstrates our commitment to delivering the skills businesses need to grow and young people need to build productive careers. We're determined to do more to boost growth, rebalance the economy, extend opportunity and break down barriers between academic and vocational learning. Our planned investment will deliver some 360,000 apprenticeships this year alone, and we'll continue to work with the business community to make it easier for more employers of all sizes to take on an apprentice and reap the benefits they bring. With every £1 of Government money delivering a return of some £40 to the wider economy, this is a sound investment in the country's future." (Source: BIS)

nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=420061&NewsAreaID=2&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+bis-fe-skills-latest+%28BIS+FE+%26+Skills+latest%29

DECC issues Energy National Policy Statements

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has published government's finalised Energy National Policy Statements. The statements outline government's plans for renewable energy generation and announces eight suitable sites for new nuclear power stations by 2025. Charles Hendry MP, Minister of State for Energy said: "Around a quarter of the UK's

generating capacity is due to close by the end of this decade. We need to replace this with secure, low carbon, affordable energy. This will require over £100 billion worth of investment in electricity generation alone. This means twice as much investment in energy infrastructure in this decade as was achieved in the last decade. The Coalition Government is determined to make the UK a truly attractive market for investors, to give us secure, affordable, low-carbon energy." The Nuclear National Policy Statement lists the following sites as potentially suitable for the deployment of new nuclear power stations by 2025: Bradwell, Essex; Hartlepool, Borough of Hartlepool; Heysham, Lancashire; Hinkley Point, Somerset; Oldbury, South Glos.; Sellafield, Cumbria; Sizewell, Suffolk; Wylfa, Isle of Anglesey. (Source: DECC) www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/nps_wms/nps_wms.aspx



UK manufacturers report solid demand - CBI

The CBI has published its latest monthly industrial trends survey, reporting solid demand in the manufacturing sector. The survey shows that UK manufacturers are continuing to report healthy order books and expect further output growth in the coming quarter, though at a slightly slower pace than over the past few months. Manufacturing demand remained strong in June with 27% of manufacturers describe total orders as above normal, while 26% said they were below normal. The resulting balance of +1% is

well above the long-term average (-18%), and is a slight improvement on the previous month's balance of -2%. Export orders books also picked up slightly in June, with 28% predict output will rise in the coming three months, 14% predict it will fall. The resulting rounded balance of +13% is down slightly on very strong expectations seen over the past five months, but still exceeds the long-term average (+5%). Concerns remain about price pressures. Ian McCafferty, CBI Chief Economic Adviser, said: "UK manufacturers currently have healthy order books. Factory output is still set to rise solidly over the coming quarter, but expectations for growth have moderated compared with recent months, when output prospects were particularly strong. This reflects the slightly softer patch for manufacturing evident in other economies, much of which appears due to the temporary supply chain disruptions following the tsunami in Japan. Inflationary pressures remain acute. High commodity prices and import costs mean firms still expect to raise factory gate prices markedly over the next three months." (Source: CBI)

<http://cbi.org.uk/ndbs/press.nsf/0363c1f07c6ca12a8025671c00381cc7/74dfa02b193ab3c1802578b5003d889d?OpenDocument>



Week ahead

House of Commons

Energy and Climate Change Committee (12.30pm, Grimmond room). Subject: A European supergrid. Witness: Charles Hendry MP, minister of state, Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Westminster Hall

Wednesday 29 June – 2:30pm - 4:00pm: Promoting manufacturing in the West Midlands (James Morris, Con, Halesowen and Rowley Regis).

Lords Chamber

No relevant activity