



WEEK IN WESTMINSTER



Week ending Friday 15 October 2010

1. **BIS encourages new UK low carbon innovators**
2. **Government funds green buses to reduce CO₂ emissions**
3. **Science Minister launches consultation on EU Framework Programme**
4. **Mayor and TfL urge drivers to look out for motorcyclists in bus lanes**
5. **Labour announce new front bench team**
6. **Week ahead**

1. Government funds green buses to reduce CO₂ emissions

Transport minister Norman Baker has announced that government has awarded £15 million for low carbon buses. The winners of the second round of the Green Bus Fund - which aims to encourage and help bus operators and local authorities to buy new hybrid and electric buses - will now be able to purchase around 170 vehicles which will operate in cities and rural areas by March 2012. The first round of the competition saw 24 bidders share £30 million, which is helping to support the purchase of around 350 new low carbon buses. The additional funding will help towards the additional upfront cost of buying low carbon buses and provides the capital investment required to bring down costs for operators. Local transport minister Norman Baker said: "This sector has tremendous potential to reduce the impact of road transport on climate change. The Green Bus Fund is vital to unlocking this potential and will also stimulate a growing market." (Source: DfT)

nds.coi.gov.uk/clientmicrosite/Content/Detail.aspx?ClientId=202&NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=415979&SubjectId=36

2. Labour announce new front bench team

Leader of the Labour Party, Ed Miliband, has decided who will be in his new front bench team. The leader has promoted a number of new Labour MPs into the shadow front bench team, including Chi Onwurah MP in the business team, John Woodcock MP in the transport team and Chuka Umunna as his PPS. The frontbench team also has roles for longer serving Labour members such as Jim Fitzpatrick MP at transport and Nia Griffith MP at business. The remaining shadow business team members are Gareth Thomas MP, Ian Lucas MP, Gordon Banks MP, Gordon Marsden MP, Lord (David) Triesman and Lord (Tony) Young of Norwood Green. The shadow transport team also includes Andrew Gwynne MP and Rt Hon Lord (Bryan) Davies of Oldham. (Source: Labour)

www2.labour.org.uk/labours-new-front-bench-team,2010-10-10

3. BIS encourages new UK low carbon innovators

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has created an exhibition to showcase UK-manufactured low carbon products. The low carbon exhibition is the second in a planned rolling programme of themed displays demonstrating excellence in British design, engineering and manufacturing. Exhibits have been provided by Intelligent Energy Ltd, Flow Control, Tata Steel, Pod Point and Dudson. Exhibiting products include the world's first fuel cell motorbike and a charging pod for electric vehicles. Business minister Mark Prisk said: "Growing the manufacturing sector is a key part of our plans to create economic growth so we need to take advantage of new business opportunities such as low carbon. I hope that these shining examples of both small and large businesses encourage the visiting business community to reap the huge benefits of exporting." (Source: BIS)

nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=415889&NewsAreaID=2

4. Science minister launches consultation on EU Framework Programme

Science minister David Willetts MP has launched a consultation inviting the UK's Research and Development (R&D) community to have their say on the European Union's Framework Programme. The Framework Programme aims to deliver a number of EU-wide benefits including economies of scale, the development of public goods such as low-carbon technologies and the creation of cross-European networks. The UK has received £1.64 billion in the current 2007-2013 iteration of the Framework Programme (known as FP7) of funding from the £11.37 billion awarded to date. The programme is expected to be worth a total of £45.2 billion during 2007-2013. However, while there are high levels of participation from the UK's academic community, business participation is lower in comparison with France and Germany. David Willetts said: "Research, technology and innovation will play a key role in helping our economy to grow and it is vital that this initiative meets UK interests. We want to hear from those with first-hand experiences of this initiative – academics, researchers and particularly businesspeople – so that we better equip the UK to maximise on the opportunities on offer and strengthen our negotiating position in advance of the next Programme." (Source: BIS)

nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=415939&NewsAreaID=2

5. Mayor and TfL urge drivers to look out for motorcyclists in bus lanes

The Mayor and Transport for London (TfL) have launched a new road safety campaign aimed at improving drivers' awareness of motorcyclists in bus lanes. A radio advert has been launched reminding drivers that motorcyclists are harder to spot than buses and asks drivers to look out for them. The new advert is part of a package of measures TfL and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) have introduced to tackle an increase in the rate of motorcyclist collisions that were identified by the previous Motorcycles in Bus Lanes Trial. Kulveer Ranger, the Mayor's transport adviser, said: "The last Trial of allowing bikers to use bus lanes showed some real successes - fears there would be more collisions between cyclists and motorcyclists proved unfounded and road users who were surveyed supported the idea. I want all road users to respect each other so they can share the roads and help everyone to stay safe as they make their way around London." (Source: TfL)

www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/media/newscentre/16862.aspx

6. Week ahead

House of Commons

Commons Chamber

Wednesday October 20

12.30pm: Statement is expected announcing the comprehensive spending review

Commons committees

Tuesday October 19

Transport - 10:35am: Transport and the Economy

Witness(es): Prof Henry Overman, London School of Economics; Prof John Tomaney, University of Newcastle; Prof Alan Wenban-Smith, Birmingham City University; and Prof Phil Goodwin, University of West of England; Malcolm Griffiths, Bluespace Thinking; Chris Riley, Consultant
Location: Committee Room 6, Palace of Westminster

House of Lords

Lords Chamber

Tuesday October 19

2.30pm: Oral questions to ask government:

How their programme implementing the European Union Renewables Directive takes into account the existing level of fuel poverty and the likely effect on employment in British industry (Lord Vinson)

Main business:

Question for short debate on what assessment they have made of the wider benefits of adult educations; and what steps they are taking to support and encourage institutions which seek to promote lifelong learning (Baroness Sharp of Guildford).

Wednesday October 20

3.00pm: Oral questions to ask the government

What proposals they will table at the UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun (Lord Bishop of Liverpool).