

Advanced fuels call for evidence launched

Transport Minister Baroness Kramer has announced the launch of a government call for evidence on advanced fuels. The document is a first stage consultation that will help inform future government policies. Advanced fuels is a term used to describe a variety of carbon cutting fuels including the next generation of biofuels, hydrogen, synthetic fuels made in high-tech facilities and methane harvested from effluent and rotting food waste. Government is seeking evidence on the current state of advanced fuel development in order to understand more about the deployment potential of various fuel technologies, whether the market needs support or encouragement to develop and whether there is anything that government can or should do to help. The evidence being sought is intended to form a comprehensive knowledge base from which government can set out clear future policy. The consultation closes on 21 February 2014.

(Source: DfT)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-green-fuels-in-the-spotlight>

Government announces new City Deals

The Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, and cities Minister Greg Clark, have announced the details of three City Deals for Coventry and Warwickshire, Norwich and the surrounding area, the Black Country, with a Memorandum of Understanding being agreed for Cambridge. The deals aim to provide a total of over £320 million of public and private sector investment, with over 39,000 jobs created. The Coventry and Warwickshire City Deal is expected to create over 15,000 new jobs by 2025 of which over 8,800 will be in the advanced manufacturing and engineering sector. The deal will also provide over £90 million of public and private sector investment and will develop both a new Shared Apprentice Scheme which will see apprentices gaining work-based training in a number of small and medium-sized enterprises and a new Skills 4 Growth programme which will

tackle skills gaps for small and medium-sized enterprises in the advanced manufacturing and engineering sector. The Black Country City Deal covers the areas of Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell and will bring around £130 million of private investment to the region, creating 5,800 new manufacturing jobs in the next four years and at least 1,500 apprenticeships in high value manufacturing jobs. In addition, a new Black Country Investment Fund has been created to help develop key industrial sites. The Norwich and the surrounding area City Deal is expected to create more than 19,000 jobs including 3,000 high value jobs at Norwich Research Park, 2,000 jobs around Norwich International Airport and 1,000 jobs based around Norwich University of the Arts and will secure an additional £100 million of private investment to utilise Norwich's high-tech expertise.

(Source: Office of the Deputy Prime Minister)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/city-deals-for-coventry-norwich-the-black-country-and-cambridge>



TfL selects IER to manage Source London scheme

Transport for London (TfL) has announced that IER has been selected to take over the management and operation of Source London, the capital's electric vehicle (EV) charge point network and membership scheme. The French organisation, which is a subsidiary of the Bolloré Group, will take over the scheme from summer 2014. IER will be responsible for all back office functions including handling enquiries and membership registrations, from its UK offices. By working with new and existing Source

London partners, IER aim to expand the charging network and provide a strong long-term commitment to EV drivers in London. IER will be looking to expand the number of Source London charge points to 6,000 by 2018 to meet the growing needs of EV drivers. They aim to do this by working with existing partners to identify new charging locations or by attracting new partners to the scheme. IER also propose a broad range of customer services for Source London members and will be developing a new Source London website, a London based sales office, new mobile applications and platforms for engagement through social media.

(Source: TfL)

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/media/newscentre/29163.aspx>



DVLA cuts red tape for motorists

Roads Minister Robert Goodwill has announced that motorists will no longer need motor insurance policies to be checked when getting their vehicle tax. The changes, which come into force from 16 December 2013, also mean that motorists will only need to tell DVLA once when they declare their vehicle off the road. Currently, motorists who make a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) have to renew their SORN every year. Last year, around 4 million SORNs were made, with over a million of those repeat renewals. The changes to insurance checks have been made possible because DVLA regularly checks existing databases for insurance under Continuous Insurance Enforcement rules. DVLA's records are compared regularly with the Motor Insurance Database to identify registered keepers of vehicles that have no insurance.

(Source: DVLA)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dvla-cuts-unnecessary-red-tape-for-motorists>

Lords committee questions motor industry on benefits of EU/US trade deal

The House of Lords EU Sub Committee on External Affairs, who are investigating the trade deal between the EU and the US, heard from representatives of the automotive sector on Thursday 12 December. The witnesses appearing before the Lords Committee were Mike Hawes, Chief Executive, SMMT, Andrew McCall, Executive Director, Governmental Affairs, Ford of Europe, Geoff Grose, Chief Engineer, McLaren Automotive Limited and Chris Scott, Senior Manager, Global Automotive Safety, Regulations, Compliance and Homologation, Jaguar Land Rover. The sector representatives gave evidence to the House Committee on a range of questions covering areas such as political enthusiasm for TTIP, non-tariff barriers and mutual recognition of regulations, and consumer issues. (Source: House of Lords Sub-Committee C (External Affairs))

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/eu---foreign-affairs-defence-and-development-policy-sub-committee-c/news/ttip-automobile-sector/>

Week ahead

Commons Chamber

Thursday 19 December

9.30am: Transport questions

Commons Committees

Monday 16 December

Transport Committee (4.00pm, Grimond room)

Better roads

Thursday 19 December

Political and Constitutional Reform Committee (10.00am, Wilson room)

The government's lobbying bill: Follow up

The House of Commons is in recess from 20 December to 6 January.

The House of Lords is in recess from 19 December to 7 January.