

## **Minute of the Automotive Council 10 December 2009**

**BIS Conference Centre, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1**

### **Attendees:**

Richard Parry-Jones (Chair)	Lord Mandelson (Govt Chair)
Gordon Murray (Deputy Chair)	Ian Lucas (Govt Acting Chair)
Jon Carling, Aston Martin	Iain Gray, TSB
Brian Collins, DfT/BIS	Geoff Dart, BIS
Barry Dodd, GSM Group	Michael Hurwitz, OLEV
Paul Everitt, SMMT	Mitchell Leimon, BIS
Joe Greenwell, Ford	Andrew Levi, UKTI
Jerry Hardcastle, Nissan	Jane Whewell, BIS
Jürgen Hedrich, BMW	
Gwenne Henricks, Caterpillar/Perkins	
Hermann Kaess, Bosch	
Dave Keene, Niche Vehicles Group	
John Miles, ARUP	
Dave Osborne, UNITE	
Andrea Paver, Leyland Trucks	
Graham Smith, Toyota	
Nigel Stein, GKN	

### **Apologies:**

David Smith, JLR (Deputy Chair)  
Ken Keir, Honda  
Trevor Mann, Nissan  
Bill Parfitt, GM  
Franz-Josef Paefgen, Bentley

### **Agenda Item 1: Chairs' Introduction**

**Lord Mandelson** opened the meeting by thanking members and the industry Chair for their commitment to establishing the Council. **LM** set out the Council's forward agenda and noted that as a matter of priority further thought was needed on practical steps to strengthen the UK supply chain. **LM** announced that Bill Parfitt of GM would chair the Supply Chain Council and Nigel Stein of GKN Automotive had agreed to be deputy chair. He thanked them both.

**Richard Parry Jones** endorsed these comments and also emphasised the need for the Council to be an action orientated body. **RPJ** proposed holding up to six informal working group meetings of the Council each year in addition to the scheduled formal meetings. He asked for members to indicate their availability for this working group. **[ACTION 1: Automotive Council Members to indicate their availability to participate in working group meetings]**

### **Agenda Item 2: Test Bed UK/OLEV**

**OLEV** presented Paper AC10/1201 to the Council. **OLEV/TSB** announced the launch of a joint £19 million technology competition to focus on strengthening the UK's capability and supply network for low carbon vehicles. Successful projects for this call should demonstrate three characteristics – be strongly collaborative, help build the UK supply chain, and show a credible route to market.

**TSB** noted its support for the Automotive Council. They want the technology competition to engage UK Tier 2 and 3 automotive suppliers. **TSB** confirmed that Tier 1s would be eligible. **TSB** envisages Tier 1s and OEMs playing a leading role in successful bidding consortia.

**BIS Officials** noted the importance of Test Bed UK in helping create interest amongst global companies in the UK automotive industry and that the BIS Automotive Unit will work closely with the Automotive Council to ensure co-ordination of all streams of activity under Test Bed UK.

Following these contributions **Ian Lucas** invited comments from members. The following points were made:

- The UK must define its key areas of competitive strength
- The UK should co-ordinate technology development with the built environment and infrastructure
- OLEV should not overlook the commercial vehicle market
- Government activity concerning the development of low carbon vehicles must be consistent across departments.

**RPJ** concluded by calling for OLEV to set out their plans concerning consumer engagement and called on all Council members to consider how their organisations can participate in the OLEV/TSB technology competition. [**ACTION 2:** OLEV to set out their plans concerning consumer engagement] [**ACTION 3:** All Council members to consider how their organisations can participate in the OLEV/TSB technology competition]

### **Agenda Item 3: Technology Council – The Way Forward**

**Jerry Hardcastle** presented Paper AC10/1202 to the Council. **JH** set out four proposed priority areas for UK automotive industry development, identified on the basis of the TSB ‘UK Capability Study’.

Members endorsed the four strategic technology areas.

**TSB** proposed making a summary of the TSB ‘UK Capability Study’ available publicly. Council Members endorsed this proposal. [**ACTION 4:** TSB to publish key findings from the ‘UK Capability Study’]

During the discussion the following points were made:

- The Council should consider how to promote collaboration amongst universities.
- EPSRC can play an important role in helping to foster cooperation. However, the bilateral agreements universities enter into with companies could create a challenge in achieving this.

[**ACTION 5:** Brian Collins to liaise with EPSRC regarding promoting collaboration amongst universities and EPSRC’s contribution to future Automotive Council meetings].

### **Agenda Item 4: The Supply Chain – The Challenge Ahead**

**RPJ** noted the challenges faced by the UK automotive supply chain and the need for these challenges to be addressed to ensure the long-term viability of the sector. **RPJ**

emphasised that this is an issue of immediate priority and that members and the industry in general must work together to tackle it.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- Major UK-owned automotive suppliers now have extensive global operations but most have little UK production presence.
- The UK must focus on attracting Tier 1 suppliers to enhance their UK footprint beyond 'just in time' assembly.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Tier 1 Engagement**

**RPJ** updated members on his recent meeting with board members of Bosch in Stuttgart. The visit was successful and he had been encouraged by Bosch's positive response to UK developments such as Test Bed UK and the establishment of the Automotive Council.

**Bosch** endorsed this view and noted that they will hold an internal meeting in January to decide on future investment in the UK. It is possible this will result in the establishment in the UK of a small team of engineering specialists from Bosch Engineering Services to conduct product development tailored towards the UK niche vehicle sector. The success of this venture would then allow Bosch to decide on further investment.

**BIS Officials** stated it is crucial that Council members as Industry experts make themselves available to support Tier 1 engagement by the UK Government.

**RPJ** called on **UKTI** to prepare a targeted contact programme for engaging with Tier 1 suppliers over the next 12 months and noted Technology Council and Automotive Council member's willingness to support Tier 1 engagement. [**ACTION 6:** UKTI, in consultation with the BIS Auto Unit, to prepare a targeted contact programme for engaging with 6 - 12 Tier 1 suppliers over the next 12 months].

#### **Agenda Item 6: Terms of Reference, Work Plan, Future Meeting Dates**

**RPJ** introduced the Automotive Council Terms of Reference and Work Plan which were endorsed by members.

#### **Agenda Item 7: AOB**

**RPJ** proposed establishing a communications group for the Automotive Council to publicise its work, to help attract future talent into the sector and promote the UK as an automotive investment location. [**ACTION 7:** Members to propose communications specialists from their organisations to form the communications group].

The meeting closed at 11.30am

**NAIGT Secretariat**  
**10 December 2009**

### **Summary list of actions**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Date Action Created</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>ACTION 1:</b> Automotive Council Members to indicate their availability to participate in working group meetings	All members	<b>10 Dec</b>	<b>Jan 2010</b>
<b>ACTION 2:</b> OLEV to set out their plans concerning consumer engagement	OLEV	<b>10 Dec</b>	<b>Jan 2010</b>
<b>ACTION 3:</b> All Council members to consider how their organisations can participate in the OLEV/TSB technology competition	All members	<b>10 Dec</b>	<b>Immediate</b>
<b>ACTION 4:</b> TSB to publish findings from the 'UK Capability Study'	TSB	<b>10 Dec</b>	<b>Jan 2010</b>
<b>ACTION 5:</b> BC to liaise with EPSRC regarding promoting collaboration amongst universities and EPSRC's contribution to future Automotive Council meetings	Brian Collins	<b>10 Dec</b>	<b>Jan 2010</b>
<b>ACTION 6:</b> UKTI, in consultation with the BIS Auto Unit, to prepare a targeted contact programme for engaging with 6 - 12 Tier 1 suppliers over the next 12 months	UKTI	<b>10 Dec</b>	<b>Jan 2010</b>
<b>ACTION 7:</b> Members to propose communications specialists from their organisations to form the communications sub-group	All members	<b>10 Dec</b>	<b>Jan 2010</b>