

CAVENDISH

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Weekly Monitoring
Friday 3rd October



EIA Update

We were delighted to host our panel event at the Labour Party Conference on Monday, where we officially launched the 2024 Economic Impact Study. The report is now available to download from our website [here](#).

The panel, titled *Backing British Events: A Growth Sector for Labour's Economy*, featured Jo Platt MP, Member of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, alongside panellists representing the three branches of the EIA. The discussion was thought-provoking and informative, highlighting the vital role the events industry plays in both the UK economy and wider communities.



Left to right: Anna Golden CEO of AEO, Rob Brackstone, Managing Director ESM Ltd, Faye Dyer CEO of ACC Liverpool, Jo Platt MP, Matthew Butler, Group Managing Director at Closerstill Media Ltd, Rachel Parker CEO of AEO, and Andrew Harrison CEO of ESSA.

Political Update

Over the past week, the Labour Party held its annual conference at ACC Liverpool.

This year's conference began amid leadership speculation surrounding Andy Burnham and mounting pressure from Reform UK, but concluded with Prime Minister Keir Starmer appearing politically strengthened. Key speeches from Chancellor Rachel Reeves and the Prime Minister drew sharp contrasts with Reform, with Reeves describing Nigel Farage as "the single greatest threat to our way of life". She also criticised Burnham's fiscal stance, while Starmer framed the moment as a choice between "decency and division". Policy announcements included a new university and apprenticeship target, the launch of NHS Online, expanded access to weight-loss jabs, and stricter conditions for indefinite leave to remain. The conference also laid the groundwork for potential tax rises in the Autumn Budget, citing global instability and economic pressures.

The Conservative Party Conference, the official opposition, will start on Sunday 5th October. It is expected that during their conference Conservative Leader Kemi Badenoch will announce plans to leave the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The Green Party is holding its conference today, 3rd October, and the newly elected leader Zack Polanski has described this as their first 'eco-populist' conference.

News

£25 Million Boost for Creative Industries Across Six UK Regions

Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy has announced £25 million in funding for six mayoral regions, Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, North East, West of England, West Midlands and West Yorkshire, to grow their creative industries. The Creative Places Growth Fund will support innovation, skills and investment in sectors like film, fashion and gaming. An additional £8 million in grants will benefit over 100 small creative businesses nationwide. The initiative forms part of the Government's wider Industrial Strategy and Creative Industries Sector Plan.

Canada and Business Events

Canada's business events industry is embracing sustainability as a core standard, supported by a \$50 million investment from the Government of Canada through Destination Canada's International Convention Attraction Fund. The fund helps attract major international events aligned with Canada's priority sectors, offering up to \$1 million per bid. With a 72% success rate and significant economic returns, Canada is leading in regenerative tourism, net-zero goals, and inclusive programming, positioning itself as a global frontrunner in sustainable business events.

UK Town of Culture Competition Announced

Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy has announced a new UK Town of Culture competition to spotlight the unique contributions of towns to national life. Building on the success of the UK City of Culture programme, the initiative aims to boost pride in place through locally led cultural programmes. It will run alongside the existing City of Culture scheme, with Bradford's current success cited as a model. A 2029 City of Culture competition will also launch soon.

Business and Trade Committee Launches National Roadshow to Shape Growth Agenda

The Business and Trade Committee has launched its second annual roadshow to gather evidence on UK growth priorities. Roundtables will be held across cities and regions, alongside Westminster and online events, to hear directly from businesses and workers. The inquiry explores eight key areas, including business confidence, investment, productivity, and the role of regions and cities in driving local growth. The deadline for submissions is 14 November. The findings will inform the Committee's 2026 workplan.

UK-Singapore Partnership Strengthens Trade and Investment Ties

The 8th UK-Singapore Economic and Business Partnership Steering Committee met in Singapore, co-chaired by Gareth Davies, Minister for Trade and Dr Beh Swan Gin, Permanent Secretary of Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry. Discussions

focused on trade policy, economic resilience, and investment, reaffirming support for multilateral frameworks like the WTO and CPTPP. A business event was hosted by the two representatives with representatives from UK and Singapore businesses and investors, highlighting opportunities in the UK's Industrial Strategy.

Government Confirms Next Rail Services to Return to Public Ownership

The Department for Transport has announced that West Midlands Trains, Govia Thameslink Railway, Chiltern Railways and Great Western Railways will transfer to public ownership, integrating into Great British Railways. By mid-2026, over half of all rail journeys will be publicly operated. This move forms part of the government's wider railways reset, aiming to improve reliability and passenger experience. Legislation to establish Great British Railways will be introduced this Parliamentary session, fulfilling a key transport reform commitment.

Parliament

Nothing of relevance. Parliament is in recess and will return on 13th October.

**For any queries regarding this round-up
please get in touch.**

Get in touch



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