Westminster eForum Keynote Seminar:

The sharing economy in the UK: impact, market prospects and policy priorities

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 15th September 2016

Venue: Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

9.00 - 9.05 Chair's opening remarks

Chris Leslie MP



Debbie Wosskow, Chair, Sharing Economy UK (SEUK) and Chief Executive Officer, Love Home Swap

Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 - 10.15 How key sectors are responding: service efficiency, modernisation and simplification

Where are sharing economy businesses proving most competitive in the offer to consumers and other market participants in comparison to traditional services, including in terms of cost, ease-of-use and flexibility? What are key examples of UK businesses successfully exploiting the potential of the sharing economy to meet the changing needs of consumers, simplify service and change business processes, and what can be learnt in terms of best practice? How are disruptive technologies and platforms in the sharing economy changing business practices more widely in the way traditional services are delivered?

Richard Laughton, Chief Executive Officer, easyCar

Olivia Sibony, Co-Founder, Grub Club

Sam James, Managing Director UK & Ireland, Hassle.com

Questions and comments from the floor

10.15 - 11.00 Enabling the sharing economy: investment, technology and the impact of policy

How developed is the UK sharing economy compared with other territories and what support in policy terms would most aid its growth? What is the potential upside for the UK of the sharing economy, and where might economic benefits be most notable? With many sharing enterprises originating as grassroots disruptors of traditional business models, how is the relationship between the ethos of mutuality and the drive for commercial growth likely to evolve in the future, and what is the potential of sharing businesses as drivers of social change into the future? With the scale and impact of the sector not widely understood - with implications for investment, business collaboration and technology development - how can its profile be raised in the UK and internationally? What are the best options for start-ups and SMEs in the market looking for further investment, and how good a fit are innovative approaches like crowd-funding in comparison to traditional routes? What key challenges do emerging sharing enterprises face and how can they be supported in particular on issues such as scaling up their online offering, cyber security and securing their intellectual property?

Brhmie Balaram, Senior Researcher, RSA

Ifty Nasir, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Vestd

Clive Seddon, Partner and Head of TMT & Sourcing, Pinsent Masons

Questions and comments from the floor

11.00 - 11.05 Chair's closing remarks

Chris Leslie MP

11.05 - 11.35 Coffee

11.35 - 11.40 Chair's opening remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

11.40 - 11.50 Next steps for policy in the UK

Speaker to be announced

11.50 - 12.15 <u>'Commission's Communication on a European agenda for the collaborative economy'</u>

Athina Angeliki Tsitsou, Legal Assistant, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs,

European Commission

Questions and comments from the floor with speaker to be announced

12.15 - 12.55 Priorities for regulating the sharing economy: competition, employment and protecting consumers

How well are sharing economy businesses fostering consumer trust and protection, what are key examples of best practice and where in general do they most need to improve? Following significant growth in the number of people working primarily through sharing economy platforms, what steps - including developments in regulation - might need to be taken to resolve key issues surrounding employment status, tax liabilities, job security and sufficient background checks? How well are current frameworks coping with resolving disputes that typically affect individual sectors such as taxi services and accommodation - particularly with regard to licensing, planning and ownership - and what changes might be needed? As new enterprises change the way services are being delivered, how might policy on competition need to evolve?

Steve Garelick, Branch Secretary for Professional Drivers, GMB Union

Roddy Campbell, Founder, Vrumi

Speaker to be confirmed

Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 - 13.00 Chair's and Westminster eForum closing remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

Daniel Patefield, Forum Lead, Westminster eForum

