

## Boost for Ford Focus

By Ian Lynas

JUST after reaching dealer showrooms the Ford Focus with a one litre EcoBoost petrol engine was winning awards and recently I had the opportunity to taking the



wheel of one.

With a small 125PS EcoBoost turbocharged, direct injection petrol engine it was named Best Company Car by Business Car.

The magazine and website described the Focus as a brilliant all-rounder, adding that Ford has pulled another winner out of the bag.

It has listened to its critics and the latest Focus is more comfortable, upmarket and relaxing than ever.

This newcomer is really shaking up the company car sector.

The 125PS one litre petrol model has all

that the business driver needs, punchy with lots of low-down overtaking urge, smooth and relaxing on the motorway.

Plus there is lower company car tax than the diesel.

The new engine combines turbo charging, direct injection and twin variable cam timing to deliver high levels of performance and refinement with all the fuel economy advantages of downsizing. It produces 125PS and 170Nm peak torque (200Nm with overboost) between 1,400 and 4,500rpm.

These output figures are achieved in combination with fuel economy improvements of 20 per cent over the outgoing 1.6 litre 125PS unit.

In the five-door Focus with 125PS, the combined fuel economy figure is 56.5mpg with CO2 emissions of 114g/km. The 100PS version delivers a combined fuel economy figure of 58.9mpg and outright best-in-class petrol CO2 emissions of 109g/km.

My average for a week behind the wheel was 39.3mpg, I must say I was disappointed I expected a lot more.

My test car was a Zetec S five door with an emission figure of 114g/km and rest to 62mp in a whisker over eleven seconds.

Despite having sports suspension as standard the ride was firm but not in any way uncomfortable and with its sharp styling and riding on 18 inch alloy wheels (an option) it certainly caught the eye of many, aided no doubt by the full body kit and colour coding.

Standard equipment includes such items as front fog lights, ESP, Ford DAB audio with Bluetooth and USB connectivity.

I must point out that the Bluetooth was very easy to connect.

The sports theme was carried to the interior with comfy sports style seats. The on road price is £19,195.

However my test car had a number of options taking the final tally to £22,320.

Included on the option list City Pack-Rear Park Assist and powerfold mirrors, Ford DAB sat nav, door edge protectors, privacy glass, cruise control with Active Speed Limiter, Driver Assist Pack, Traffic Sign Recognition, Driver Alert, auto high beam and blind spot alert.

A well appointed hatchback, adding further strength to the popularity of the Focus range.