



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

**This is an open letter to people
and businesses of the Midlands**

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP

*Secretary of State for Communities and Local
Government*

***Department for Communities and Local
Government***

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Dear all,

As Ministerial Champion for the Midlands Engine, I am delighted to share with you the Government's ambitious modern Industrial Strategy that supports business across the Midlands, and the whole of the UK, to have a global competitive edge. You can find the White Paper at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/industrial-strategy-building-a-britain-fit-for-the-future>

The Midlands is home to world class supply chain companies and some of our best innovation clusters including advanced manufacturing, automotive, life sciences, cyber security, and agri-food. This document, which complements the Midlands Engine Strategy published earlier this year, sets out how we will build on our strengths and capitalise on the opportunities before us.

Every region in the UK has a role to play in boosting the national economy and collaboration across the country is at the heart of our approach. We will continue to work with stakeholders across the region through ongoing discussions with the Midlands Engine Partnership, businesses, city regions, universities and Local Enterprise Partnerships about how we improve productivity and unlock the full potential of the Midlands.

Our aim is to have prosperous communities across the whole of the UK. We have launched a £1.7 billion Transforming Cities Fund to drive productivity through improved connectivity and reduced congestion, and the West Midlands Combined Authority will benefit from £250 million of this. Half of the fund will be available to cities across the country via a competitive process; this will enable cities across the

Midlands to bid into the funding to help to deliver the opportunities and ambition of the Industrial Strategy.

Through local industrial strategies, we will help business leaders and community representatives build on their strengths and stimulate local growth. The Industrial Strategy also unveils a new Supply Chain Competitiveness programme that will boost the productivity and competitiveness of Midlands' supply chains, including automotive and manufacturing.

We are committed to raising the skills level across the region to meet the demands of Midlands' employers and individuals. Skills levels in the Midlands will be enhanced through greater investment in Further Education through T Levels, helping build the skills needed for the future.

Through the Midlands Engine and this Industrial Strategy, we are investing in skills, industries, and infrastructure – to make the most of the opportunities the Midlands offers. Everyone in the Midlands, including our businesses both large and small, has a key role to play in producing a thriving Midlands Engine that contributes to our national economic success. I am committed to making the region a great place to live, work and study. I look forward to continuing to work with the Midlands Engine Partnership and local stakeholders as we implement the Industrial Strategy and build a Britain fit for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Javid', with a small comma at the end.

THE RT HON SAJID JAVID MP