



Midlands Engine Executive Board Papers Reports Pack

14 OCTOBER 2020

CONTENTS

1. Agenda
2. Election to Chair (EB10.20.1)
3. Draft Minutes (EB10.20.2)
4. Directors Report - Governance (EB10.20.3)
5. Directors Report - Delivery (EB10.20.4)

Date: 14 October 2020 13.00hrs – 15.00hrs

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Membership:	Sir John Peace (SJP) Cllr Alan White (AL) Leader, Staffordshire County Council, Prof. Alec Cameron (AC) President & Vice Chancellor, Aston University, Cllr David Mellen (DM) Leader Nottingham City Council, Cllr Simon Geraghty (SG) Leader Worcestershire County Council, Cllr Martin Hill (MH) Leader Lincolnshire Council, Cllr Barry Lewis (BL) Leader Derbyshire Council, Anthony May (AM) Chair Operating Board, Prof Edward Peck (EP) Vice Chancellor Nottingham Trent University, Kevin Harris (KH) Chair of Leicester & Leicestershire LEP, Cllr Chris Poulter (CP), Derby City Council, Mark Stansfeld (MS) Chair of Worcestershire LEP, Andy Street (AS) Mayor West Midlands Combined Authority,
Observers:	Nick King, ME Advisor, Marian Sudbury, DIT Director for UK Regions, John Henderson, Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council, Simon Ablewhite, Deputy Section 151 Officer, Staffordshire County Council.
Apologies:	Andy Street (Alt. Cllr Bob Sleigh, Deputy Mayor WMCA)
In attendance:	Rachael Greenwood (RG) Midlands Engine Director, Rowena Limb (RL) Area Director Cities and Local Growth Unit.
Guests:	Prof. Delma Dwight, (DD) Midlands Engine Observatory.
Chair:	Sir John Peace

Item	Timing	Topic	Paper No.	Lead
1. Business items				
1.1	13.00 - 13.10	Election to Office (Election of Chairman)	Paper: EB10.20.1	RG/AM
1.2	13.10 -13.15	Chairman's welcome		Chair
1.3	13.15 – 13.20	Declarations of Interest and Minutes of last meeting	Paper: EB10.20.2	RG
1.4	13.20 -13.30	Directors Report - Governance	Paper: EB10.20.3	RG
2. Items for discussion				
2.1	13.30- 13.45	Directors Report – Delivery	Paper: EB10.20.4	RG
2.2	13.45 -14.15	Midlands Engine Observatory Presentation and State of the Region 2020 Report	Presentation	RG/DD
3.	14.15 -14.20	Any Other Business		
Break 14.20 -14.30				
(14.30 – 15.00) Launch of the Midlands Forum for Growth (MiPIM replacement event)				
Date of next meeting: 29 January 2021				

Security Level:	Confidential	Restricted	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive
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Meeting & Date:	Midlands Engine Executive Board - 14 October 2020		
Subject:	Election to Office - Chairman		
Attachments:	None		
Author:	Executive Team	Total no of sheets: (incl. cover sheet)	2
Papers are provided for:	Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion	Information

Summary & Recommendation:

Summary

This report sets out to members the requirement for the periodic election to the Office of Chairman to the Midlands Engine Executive Board. The term of Office for the Midlands Engine Executive Board Chairman, is 3 years. In line with the Midlands Engine Scheme of Delegation, the Chairman can serve up to three consecutive terms.

Recommendations

1. To note nomination(s) received to propose Sir John Peace as continuing Chairman
2. To receive and consider any alternative nominations
3. To note the summary and participate in the election at the Board meeting

Election to Office

Background - In line with the agreed Midlands Engine governance framework and Scheme of Delegation we are obliged to consider the election to Office of the Chairman of the Midlands Engine Executive Board. The Midlands Engine Scheme of Delegation provisions (Section 2 Clause 2.1) permit for up to three consecutive terms of Office for the Midlands Engine Executive Board Chairman.

Election to Office - Chairman - Election to Office for the role of Board Chairman is for a period of three years and may be held for up to three consecutive terms. The current Chairman has held Office since autumn 2017 and an election is now due.

Current Chairman, Sir John Peace has been nominated for re-election by Kevin Harris Chair, Leicester and Leicestershire LEP for East Midlands LEPs. Board members are asked to consider seconding this nomination in order that Sir John Peace be re-elected to a second term in Office as Chair of the Midlands Engine Executive Board.

The Board may also consider any alternative nominations brought forward.

If there are no other nominations, the Board will consider the nomination received and invite second nominations. Should no second nomination be brought, Sir John Peace will continue as Chairman until the January 2021 Board meeting, at which time nominations for the Chairman will be sought and a second nomination for the same also sought – until such time as a Chairman is appointed.

-Ends-



Executive Board – 22 July 2020

Conducted via Teams

Minutes of the Midlands Engine Executive Board

In attendance:

Name	Position
Sir John Peace (SJP)	Chairman of the Board
Anthony May (AM)	Chair, Midland Engine Operating Board, Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Bob Sleigh (BS)	West Midlands Councils. Deputy Mayor WMCA
Cllr Simon Geraghty (SG)	West Midlands Councils. Leader, Worcestershire County Council
Cllr Philip Atkins (PA)	West Midlands Councils. Leader, Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Martin Hill (MH)	East Midlands Councils. Leader, Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Barry Lewis (BL)	East Midlands Councils. Leader, Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Chris Poulter (CP)	East Midlands Councils. Leader, Derby City Council
Kevin Harris (KH)	East Midlands LEPS. Chair, Leicester and Leicestershire LEP
Mark Stansfield (MS)	West Midlands LEPS. Chair, Worcestershire LEP
Prof. Alec Cameron (AC)	Chair, Midlands Innovation Universities. Vice Chancellor Aston University
Prof. Edward Peck (EP)	Chair, Midlands Enterprise Universities. Vice Chancellor, Nottingham Trent University
Rachael Greenwood (RG)	Director, Midlands Engine

Observers:

Maria Machancoses (MM)	Programme Director, Midlands Connect
Nick King (NK)	Midlands Engine Consultant
Rowena Limb (RL)	Regional Director, HMG Cities and Local Growth Unit
Ian Harrison (IH)	Deputy Director, HMG DIT
John Henderson (JH)	Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council (future Accountable Body)

Guests:

Prof. Delma Dwight (DD)	Director of Economic Intelligence, Black Country Intelligence Unit
Rebecca Riley (RR)	Director, Birmingham CityREDI and Head of Research, WMCA
Sir Norman Lamb (NL)	Strategic Advisory Board Member, Mental Health and Productivity Pilot
Prof. Guy Daly (GD)	Deputy Vice Chancellor, Coventry University.

Apologies:

Cllr David Mellen (DM)	East Midland Councils. Leader, Nottingham City Council
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Item	Narrative
1	Introduction & apologies
	<p>The Chairman welcomed members to the Midlands Engine Executive Board. The Chairman noted that Cllr Atkins intended to step down from the position of Leader, Staffordshire County Council and thanked him for the long terms support and commitment he had personally given to ensure the success of the Midlands Engine.</p> <p>1.1 There were no declarations of interest.</p> <p>1.2 Apologies noted above.</p>
2	Approval of minutes EB20.7.1
	<p>2.1 Approval of the Minutes on the 26 February 2020.</p> <p>The Board approved the minutes from the meeting held 26 February 2020 without amendment.</p> <p>2.1 Matters arising.</p> <p>None recorded.</p>
3.	Chairs Opening Remarks
	<p>The Chairman noted the work of our partnership has continued apace despite current conditions - recognising the important contribution of all partners of the Midlands Engine.</p>
4.	Governance Matters EB20.7.2.
	<p>The Chairman invited RG to deliver a report to Members on Governance for the Midlands Engine.</p> <p>Members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The re-election as Chairman by nomination and unanimous support of the Operating Board for AM as the Chairman of the Midlands Engine Operating Board. The Board acknowledged AM's significant contributions to date. • Receipt of the grant determination letter from MHCLG detailing the core funding for Midlands Engine for the period 2020-21. • The progress toward transfer of the Accountable Body. <p>Members approved:</p> <p>The Midlands Engine Scheme of Delegation as recommended by the Midlands Engine Operating Board on the 22 May 2020.</p>
5.	Partner Presentations EB20.7.3. (See appended slides)
	<p>The Chairman invited presenters (DD and RR) from the Midlands Economic Observatory to provide Board Members with updates on the latest work of the Midlands Engine Observatory with focused reporting on the impact of Covid – 19 on the region's economy.</p> <p>Observations from Board members included:</p>

	<p>MM commented this is phenomenal work and provides the evidence base around a larger narrative for strategy planning for Midlands Connect.</p> <p>Members were provided with clarity on data collection methodologies and satisfied that a wide range of partners were contributing a vast amount of information to ensure the robustness of these comprehensive papers.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked RR and DD for the invaluable work and the support of so many partners in the work of the Midlands Economic Observatory.</p> <p>The Chairman invited representatives from the Mental Health and Productivity Pilot (NL and GD) to present an update on the work to date and future plans for the pilot.</p> <p>Observations from the Board included:</p> <p>Agreement on the importance of this work and Members requested further information to enable further engagement with the Pilot to be circulated to this Board.</p> <p>NL commended the valuable approach of the Midlands Engine Partnership, stating that collectively we had a head start with great partnerships to take forward many important agendas.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked GD and NL – an immensely informative presentation and a very valuable further discussion by Board Members.</p> <p>Action: Further information to be circulated to the Board to enable sharing of information and greater engagement in the pilot by Board member organisations / businesses they represent.</p>
6.	Directors Report - Delivery EB20.7.4
	<p>The Chairman invited RG to present a report updating Members on the implementation of the Midlands Engine Business Plan 2020 – 2021. RG reported significant progress is now being made led by partners from all parts of the Midlands Engine Partnership.</p> <p>RG formally noted, for the minute, that the Business Plan had been agreed by this Board in between meetings, following the cancellation of the April meeting scheduled (due to Covid-19). RG thanked members of the Board for prompt and supportive responses to approve the Business Plan.</p> <p>Members noted the pace of delivery with hugely significant contributions from many different members of the Midlands Engine Partnership.</p> <p>BS asked that RG ensure throughout that duplication of effort was not being undertaken in delivery of the Business Plan.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked RG for her report noting the progress to date drawing attention to significant fiscal event of the CSR and the importance of maintaining momentum in working in partnership to help drive recovery as we come out of the impact of Covid -19.</p>
7.	AOB
	<p>No matters recorded.</p>

8.	<p>Date of next meeting: The next meeting of this Board is scheduled for Wednesday 14 October 2020, 13:00-16:00. Venue to be confirmed.</p>
Actions	
Item	Action:
5	Executive Team to circulate to Board Members further information for the Mental Health and Productivity Pilot.

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Meeting & Date:	Midlands Engine Operating Board - 14 October 2020			
Subject:	Directors Report - Governance			
Attachments:				
Author:	Director, Midlands Engine	Total no of sheets: (incl. cover sheet)	3	
Papers are provided for:	Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion	Information	

Summary & Recommendation:

Summary

This report sets out the requirement to establish the Office of Vice Chairman for the Midlands Engine Executive Board, and highlights the concluding term of Office for current Board members and the need for re-nomination / new nominations to the Board ahead of the January 2021 meeting. It also provides information on progress with resourcing and Accountable Body transfer from Nottingham City Council to Staffordshire County Council.

Recommendations

To note summary and actions required, including:

1. To note the request to members of this Board to confirm the nominations for seats within this Board by 11 December 2020.
2. To note the intention to call for nominations to position of Vice Chair to this Board at the January meeting.
3. To note a resourcing update.
4. To note to the Accountable Body transfer update.

Board Membership

New Term of Office – Board Members

Individual Board members seats are not currently subject to a formal election process but instead are held by those individuals nominated by the group each seat represents. Current Board members and the partner organisation each member has been nominated to represent are listed below for completeness.

Independent Chairman - Sir John Peace

Rt. Hon Robert Jenrick SoS for MHCLG, Midlands Engine Ministerial Champion

Prof. Edward Peck Vice Chancellor, Nottingham Trent University for Midlands Enterprise Universities (see note 1)

Prof. Alec Cameron Vice Chancellor, Aston University for Midlands Innovation Universities

Mark Stansfeld Chair, Worcestershire LEP for West Midlands LEPs

Kevin Harris Chair, Leicester and Leicestershire LEP for East Midlands LEPs

Andy Street Mayor, West Midlands Combined Authority for West Midlands Councils

Cllr. Philip Atkins Leader, Staffordshire County Council for West Midlands Councils (see note 2)

Cllr. Simon Geraghty Leader, Worcestershire County Council for West Midlands Councils

Cllr. Ian Ward Leader, Birmingham City Council for West Midlands Councils

Cllr. Chris Poulter Leader, Derby City Council for East Midlands Councils

Cllr. Martin Hill Leader, Lincolnshire County Council for East Midlands Councils

Cllr. Barry Lewis Leader, Derbyshire County Council for East Midlands Councils

Cllr. David Mellen Leader, Nottingham City Council for East Midlands Councils

Nikki Jenkins, Accountable Body representative

Notes:

1. Midlands Enterprise Universities have advised that this seat will be taken by the current chairperson of MEU going forward
2. With a change of Leader at Staffordshire County Council since the last meeting of this Board, this seat is now taken by Cllr Alan White, Leader, Staffordshire County Council

Approach – Representation, Nominations and Board Diversity

In line with the agreed Midlands Engine governance framework and the Midlands Engine Scheme of Delegation agreed by this Board on 22 July 2020, we are obliged at this time to request Board members confirm their partner organisation groups support to continue representation at this Board by seeking re-nomination and advising the same to the Midlands Engine Executive Team by 11 December 2020. In holding a seat on the Midlands Engine

If there is a new nomination (change of representative) from any group, please can the proposed change be advised to the Midlands Engine Executive Team by 11 December 2020. For any seat where membership is not continued, an alternate member **must** be proposed. Board membership is for a period of three years from date of appointment. Board membership will be confirmed formally at the meeting of this Board at its January 2021 meeting.

Members are asked to fully consider (whether in re-nomination or new nomination) the diversity of the Board and opportunities to ensure that representation across the Executive Board is improved over time to better reflect the diversity of communities across Midlands Engine and regard should be paid to gender balance on the Board. Currently, women and those of black and minority ethnic backgrounds are underrepresented on the Board and nominations which actively aid addressing current under-representation is encouraged.

Election to Office – Vice Chair (January 2021)

Background - In line with the agreed Midlands Engine governance framework and Scheme of Delegation we are obliged to consider the election to Office to the position Vice Chair to the Midlands Engine Executive Board.

At the January meeting of this Board, when seats for members have been confirmed for the new term of office, members will be asked to provide expressions of interest for position of Vice-Chair to this Board. Interest can be notified in advance.

Recruitment of Vice Chair – Nominations will be invited at the January 2021 Board meeting. Where there are multiple nominations, the remaining Board Members will be asked to come to a consensus. If an appointment is made, term of Office will commence for three years from the date of the meeting at which a consensus is reached.

Resourcing Update

Recruitment - As set out in the Business Plan 2020/21, previously approved by this Board, the expansion of resources within the Executive Team has been ongoing. There was a phenomenal response from all partners in advertising and promoting the recruitment campaign which is warmly welcomed. Formal offers of employment are being progressed for 6 posts including communications, programme officers and executive officers which will provide much needed support, once in post. A further tranche of recruitment to senior posts is now underway.



Accountable Body transfer – The Accountable Body function was due to transfer over to Staffordshire County Council on 1 April 2020. Due to the impact of Covid -19 it was agreed by all parties to delay transfer until later in the year. It has now been agreed by all parties and the transfer commenced on the 1 October 2020. Staffordshire County Council formally approved the undertaking of the role of Midlands Engine Accountable Body at its Cabinet in September.

In order to facilitate a smooth transfer, a working group including representatives from both local authorities and the Midlands Engine Executive are co-ordinating the transfer of staff and contracts over a phased period between 1 October and 31 December 2020 - ensuring business continuity.

The continued support of Nottingham City Council and the team at Staffordshire County Council is acknowledged – and hugely valued.

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Meeting & Date:	Midlands Engine Executive Board - 14 October 2020		
Subject:	Directors Report - Delivery		
Attachments:	Levelling Up the Midlands Engine Submission to the BEIS Sub Inquiry - Levelling Up Building back stronger, better and greener in the Midlands – Summary Report The Region’s Health and Wellbeing at Work: a deep dive into the health, productivity and prosperity of our workforce State of the Region Report - Draft Executive Summary (presentation will be given)		
Author:	Director, Midlands Engine	Total no of sheets: (incl. cover sheet)	4
Papers are provided for:	Approval	Discussion	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Summary & Recommendation:

Summary

This report sets out an update on implementation of the Midlands Engine Business Plan 2020/21 and demonstrates significant progress now being made across the Partnership, led by partners from across Midlands Engine.

Recommendations

To note summary and actions required, including:

1. To note the progress on Partnership Voice – Raising the Profile of the Midlands Engine
2. To note the impact of the partnerships work on Internationalisation through our investment, with wider partners, in MIPIM over time; and via our Observatory
3. To note the Director’s assurance on continued good progress against the Midlands Engine Business Plan 2020/21 – verbal update reports can be provided

Partnership Voice – Raising the Profile of the Midlands Engine

1.1 Levelling Up the Midlands Engine (document in Appendix) – In preparation for the Spending Review, during mid-August it was agreed by the Chairs of both the Operating and Executive Boards that we should begin the process of developing an overarching Midlands Engine 'portfolio' document - a reasonably concise, but compelling narrative about the Midlands Engine and pan-regional needs – focused on levelling up and post pandemic recovery. Members of the Midlands Engine Operating Board, representing and consulting in turn with their relevant wider networks of partners, were asked to contribute directly to a section dedicated to partner-led activity - "Midlands Engine - Partners Driving Growth". This has been populated with regional 'big ticket items' – such as partner investments sought or ongoing, which are essential to address the structural weaknesses in our economy.

The documents intention is to serve as helpful pan-regional context for all partners, as partners make their respective approaches to Government. Evidence of regional need, drawing on both the Independent Economic Review and Covid Monitors was therefore included and to ensure that Senior Officials, Ministers (et al) would have a 'digest' of key indicators and levelling up matters for Midlands Engine, ahead of CSR decision points. This document was circulated to this Board on 25 September 2020 after approval at the Midlands Engine Operating Board on 16 September 2020.

A political stakeholder engagement series of meetings led by Sir John Peace is underway – with letters initially sent to key influencers listed below. We aim to make a compelling and unrelenting case for the Midlands Engine - and levelling up. This document has been strengthened hugely with the addition of so much partner content and appreciation for these inputs is formally acknowledged. This document has been subsequently sent to:

- The Rt Hon. Robert Jenrick MP Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
- The Rt Hon. Alok Sharma MP Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy
- Amanda Solloway MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Science, Research and Innovation
- The Rt Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng MP Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth
- Nadhim Zahawi Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Industry
- Paul Scully MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets
- Lord Daniel Ravensdale – Co-chair, Midlands Engine APPG and Darren Henry MP – Co-chair, Midlands Engine APPG (and onwards to APPG members)

Meeting planning is underway with Private Offices as appropriate. A proactive communications plan, with support from partners, is being implemented and will continue in coming weeks – to raise the profile of the Midlands Engine and highlight key partner programmes, regional capabilities, the evidenced need for levelling up and opportunities for economic recovery and growth.

1.2 BEIS Sub Inquiry – Levelling Up – (Document in Appendix) A response to the BEIS Select Committee Sub-Inquiry into Levelling Up was submitted. A skeleton document was developed and shared with the partnership (Operating Board) and input received further strengthened the narratives and evidence. Appended to this report is the final submission for information – which was sent on to BEIS with the approval of the Operating Board Chairman.

1.3 Building back stronger, better and greener in the Midlands - (Document in Appendix) Key Midlands Engine strengths in leading a green recovery have been drawn together and championed strongly since the last meeting of this Board. Partners from across the Midlands recognise the need for collective action to drive down carbon emissions – and that achieving net-zero must be centre-stage as we plan for post-pandemic economic recovery. A report published at the start of September by Midlands Engine which set out to start a bold conversation on how the Midlands can lead a green recovery, working with partners from industry and across the partnership, highlights some of the actions needed now – to achieve sustainable green growth, capitalising on the powerful partnerships, cutting-edge research, sector leadership and business innovation which already exists across the Midlands. Work continues in this area with a series of further Energy related discussion sessions now being planned.

1.4 Workplace Health and Wellbeing - (Document in Appendix) Covid-19 has shone a spotlight on the nation's physical and mental health. In developing our work as a partnership to deliver a series of deep dives into important challenges and opportunities facing our region, workplace health and wellbeing was an obvious choice of topic. A number of partners contributed their time and insight into creating this in-depth digest. It explores issues including mental health, with a particular focus on the Midlands Engine funded Mental Health and Productivity Pilot, innovations within our region's universities, the effects of coronavirus, rehabilitation and more. Many partnership voices are featured, from Mind's Faye McGuinness and Jaguar Land Rover's Dr Steve Iley, to key university leaders. A social media campaign, linked to release of Issue 7 of the Midlands Matters Newsletter in September drew attention to this important paper and key commentaries from industry.

1.5 Communications and Public Affairs - Meetings have continued with Ministers and MPs, including through the forum of the newly formed Midlands Engine APPG. The Midlands Engine is providing the Secretariat for this group of interested parliamentarians, who will be able to support our priorities and projects in the Houses of Parliament. The Co-Chairs of the Midlands Engine APPG are Darren Henry MP and Lord Ravensdale, with an officer group representing constituencies right across the Midlands. Early work includes Co-Chair of the APPG Darren Henry MP, having been successful in the ballot for a Prime Ministers Question in the House, taking this opportunity to highlight the importance of the Midlands Engine, to the Prime Minister, during September.

Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect and the Development Corporation continue to work in close association on public affairs and political engagement, including joint use of the political monitoring service Randall's and jointly attending meetings with regional MPs. We continue to regularly communicate the Midlands Engine Observatory's Covid Monitors and the regular partnership newsletter to all MPs.

2.0 Our Impact

2.1 Midlands MIPIM Economic Research & Evaluation of Investment 2017 to 2019 – Board Members will recall the co-commissioning of work at the end of last year, together with DIT, to evaluate the impact of the investment the partnership has made in MIPIM over the last 4 years. With MIPIM 2020 being cancelled, it was decided to continue with the evaluation, focused on the previous 3 events held.

The Midlands UK MIPIM Partnership since 2017, with a range of destination and commercial partners, has invested collectively £2.3m in a Midlands UK pavilion and the supporting programme of events, plus pre and post MIPIM activity. The evaluation concludes:

- Although impact has been difficult to measure there appears to have been generally good success in meeting targets. Delivery partners report that the project has been well managed, plus Commercial and Destination Partners value the project and its contribution to their aims.
- Over the past three years of partners attending MIPIM have connected with over 750 new contacts. Around 320 of these have led to investment enquiries, potential projects & investments. Based on responses from 12 partners, around 40 investment projects have been secured, with an estimate value of just over £2bn, and floorspace amounting to over 1.5 million sqm. Around 4,200 social media posts were published, with an estimated value of around £700k.
- **It is estimated that investments secured will support c. 29,000 gross FTE jobs, equivalent to ~£1.3bn in GVA.**
- **Once adjustments have been made re additionality generated by MIPIM for these investments, it is estimated that the programme has secured £286m in GVA and 6,500 net additional FTE jobs for the Midlands economy.**
- This means that for **every £1 invested by partners in the MIPIM presence, £95 in GVA** has been generated.

A stronger focus on monitoring and evaluation from the outset would have allowed the report to be more certain about the nature of the programme's wider achievements.

Based on the evidence collated the report provides a **clear recommendation to support the continued collaboration of Midlands UK Partners** to deliver a presence at MIPIM / similar nature events in future years. It also proposes that

the activities of the partnership are expanded so that MIPIM (or similar global opportunity) is one of a calendar of events promoting investment into the Midlands. **The report also recommends continuation of the beneficial coordinating role by Midlands Engine.**

2.2 Midlands Engine - State of the Region, October 2020 – Since the establishment of the Midlands Engine Economic Observatory, quarterly economic commentaries have been prepared and provided, for information to this Board. In April 2020 the first Midlands Engine Independent Economic Review was published and since that point, with the emergence of the pandemic, fortnightly and now monthly Covid-19 Economic Impact monitors have been produced (most recently focused on the impact of Covid-19 on Skills within the Midlands Engine). Together, this data, analysis and intelligence has proved exceptionally important to our partnership and to Government – shaping local decision making, supporting targeting of support and ensuring wide access to information with partners and businesses have found invaluable at a time of rapid change.

Building on this work, our Observatory team has now prepared a “State of the Region” report, for consideration by this Board. A presentation will be given during the meeting and a related paper is included in the Appendix. Board discussion following the presentation will allow Executive Board member guidance on the pan-regional economic Key Performance Indicators the partnership might select to monitor the health and growth of our regional economy. Discussion on collective interventions and regional policy levers / flexibilities which might be beneficial at a pan-regional level, and where national policy determinants might need to shift, may be of interest to also pursue.

Work continues to plan data sharing and advance our programme of regional research, with the expansion of the Observatory, forthcoming webinar events and the recent establishment of the inclusive Midlands Engine Intelligence Community.

Business Plan Implementation

The Midlands Engine Business Plan 2020/21, sets out the work programme of the partnership in-year. Following the update provided to this Board on the 22 July 2020, good progress is being maintained and the Director will be ready to provide a verbal update on any areas sought by the Board.

Summary of Work Streams

Midlands Engine Work Stream	Partners active (dynamic groups)
A1 Midlands Engine Observatory	Black Country Economic Intelligence Unit, Nottingham Trent University, CityREDI plus Midlands Engine Exec + MEU and MIU university partners (expanding function)
B1 Midlands Engine Energy Partnership	LEPs, Midlands Energy Hub, Midlands Engine Dev Co, Energy Capital, WMCA plus Midlands Engine Exec
B2 Midlands Engine Supply Chains	MEU, MIU, Observatory team, LEP’s – M9 plus Midlands Engine Exec
B3 Access to Finance in Midlands Engine	British Business Bank, LEPs plus Midlands Engine Exec
B4 Midlands Engine Business Mentoring and Leadership	Be the Business, LEP’s plus Midlands Engine Exec
B5 Accelerating Science and Innovation	Innovation and Enterprise Group plus Midlands Engine Exec
B6 Midlands Engine Environment Strategy	NGO (enviro) consortia, industry, plus Midlands Engine Exec
C1 Midlands Digital	Midlands Enterprise Universities, WM5G, WMCU, Midlands Connect, LEP’s plus Midlands Engine Exec
C2 Midlands Engine – International Trade and Investment	Trade and Investment group – (sub group of), Midlands Engine Exec
C3 Midlands Engine Health	Midlands Enterprise Universities, Midlands Innovation Universities, Midlands Innovation Health, Midlands Health Alliance plus Midlands Engine Exec

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