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MIDLANDS MATTERS - ISSUE 14



Welcome to Issue 14 of Midlands Matters, our Partnership newsletter.

This month may well prove to be the wettest May on record but even the weather can't dampen the positive mood our economy appears to be in.

The latest figures from the Midlands Engine Observatory tell us that business activity in the Midlands has benefited from real, measurable growth, with the West Midlands in fact seeing the largest increase in a single month since records began in 1997!

That same optimism for the future was also obvious at the Midlands Engine All-Party Parliamentary Group's (APPG) first Annual General

Meeting, which I was delighted to have been able to attend recently.

It's been a very successful first year for the APPG and I would like to thank all of our parliamentarians involved, including our co-chairs Lord Ravensdale and Darren Henry MP, who have worked tirelessly to give our region an ever-stronger voice in Parliament.

Hearing from the Secretary of State Robert Jenrick MP at the meeting, I was reminded of the many major opportunities ahead for our region, including two Freeports - the East Midlands Global Gateway at East Midlands Airport and the Humber Ports Freeport in Immingham, North East Lincolnshire - as well as the East Midlands Development Corporation.

Recent announcements of yet more civil service jobs relocating to the Midlands are further signs of confidence in our region - with the Home Office and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy joining colleagues from the Department of Transport and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government in having a base in the Midlands.

Our region boasts a wealth of strengths that make us an attractive place for businesses and people to relocate to, as we saw at the Invest Midlands conference this week, where I was joined by industry voices to debate the future direction of the Midlands.

It's clear that our region can and will continue to lead in overcoming the challenges the UK will face in the coming years, so my thanks to all our partners who make up the Midlands Engine, support our work and help guide our direction as we move towards the future, together.

Sir John Peace, Chairman, Midlands Engine

MIDLANDS ENGINE LATEST**Secretary of State attends first Midlands Engine All-Party Parliamentary Group AGM**

Midlands Engine Ministerial Champion The RT Hon Robert Jenrick joins parliamentarians from across the political spectrum to celebrate the Group's first year.

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**Latest supply chains research provides clues to our region's 'productivity puzzle'**

Five research reports commissioned by our Observatory look at sectors as diverse as food, automotive and MedTech.

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Call for employers to support staff returning to work

The Midlands Mental Health and Productivity Pilot is urging employers to check on the mental health of their staff as lockdown eases.

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MORE NEWS FROM THE MIDLANDS

More Civil Service jobs move to the Midlands

The Home Office and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will move hundreds of jobs to Stoke-on-Trent, Solihull and Birmingham.

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Improved management of farmed peatlands could cut 500m tonnes of CO2

Research from the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, supported by University of Birmingham and University of Leicester academics, could lead to substantial cuts in greenhouse emissions.

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Green aviation facility given £7.6m boost by D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership

The funding will contribute towards the development of the UK Electrification of Aerospace Propulsion Facility at the University of Nottingham.

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Loughborough University student helps design 'lifesaving' NHS Hood

A newly developed device reduces the chances of a hospitalised patient with Covid-19 needing invasive ventilation.

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Coventry begins year as UK City of Culture with release of George Eliot-inspired film

The film, inspired by world-famous author and featuring Coventry-born music producer Coolie, kicks off year-long series of events.

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Report showcases investment opportunities in the Midlands

A MICRA report paints a bright future for our region's businesses and reveals opportunities for investment.

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New Made in Lincolnshire brochure celebrates manufacturing businesses

The sector is worth £1.8 billion annually to the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and Rutland economy.

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