

MIDLANDS MATTERS - ISSUE 9



midlandsengine.org



Welcome to Issue 9 of Midlands Matters, our Partnership newsletter.

November saw our partnership impact at its best – as we came together across sectors and from every part of our region for the first ever Midlands UK Forum for Growth. The Forum for Growth showcased a powerful portfolio of investment opportunities – in fact, more than £17 billion worth of investment potential, right here in the Midlands.

Throughout the fast-paced, three-day programme we featured signature presentations on exciting, wide-ranging regional initiatives and projects such as the Commonwealth Games, Women in Leadership in the Midlands and the transformational potential of the East Midlands Development Corporation. Partner inward investment presentations were diverse and ambitious - highlighting the opportunities right

across our region for international and domestic investors. These conversations were complemented with a series of high-quality panel discussions, focusing on economic growth, regional capabilities and the clear case for investment in the Midlands.

The event was a great success, thanks to the strength of our partnership and the positive story that we came together to tell the world. The Midlands is a uniquely attractive place to invest and a fantastic destination for living, working and learning. The potential for growth here in the Midlands is vast, and the Midlands Engine partnership continues its work to bring together the remarkable projects and programmes happening in our region as we build an ever-stronger vision, the collective impact of which was so brilliantly demonstrated at the Forum for Growth.

The Chancellor published his Spending Review in November, which contained further indications of the Government's ambitions to level up the Midlands and we have since met with Government Ministers Nadhim Zahawi MP, Amanda Solloway MP and the Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to highlight the need for accelerated investment in our region.

Also this month, we have made strong progress in our programmes on Energy, Supply Chains, Digital and Health, thanks once again to the strength of our partnership and the commitment shown by partners across our region. Our close work with the Midlands Engine APPG continues to build as we grow important connections with our region's parliamentarians.

And finally, underpinning so much of our work – and as a key source of evidence for our decision making across our partnership - our Observatory has continued to publish valuable reports on the impact of Covid-19 on our economy, and this month also published an update on the effects of the pandemic on place. With constant feedback from our partners about the importance of this central area of our work, I look forward to continuing the shared investment with our

university research partners and wider partners for the year ahead.

I would like to close by wishing you good health and joy during the festive season, and I look forward to working together in 2021 to drive our shared ambitions forward as we work together on ensuring regional recovery - and begin once again to look over the horizon at the opportunities ahead of us.

With my best wishes,

Sir John Peace, Midlands Engine Chairman



MIDLANDS ENGINE LATEST

Political engagement continues at pace

The Midlands Engine's political engagement programme picked up pace in advance of this month's Government Spending Review and following the publication of our Levelling Up document, which was sent to all Midlands MPs and other parliamentarians. Midlands Engine Executive Director, Rachael Greenwood, also represented the partnership in front of the BEIS Select Committee as part of their sub-inquiry into Levelling Up. Their final report is expected in the New Year.

On the Ministerial front, meetings were held with our Midlands Engine Champion, the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick, as well as with BEIS Ministers Nadhim Zahawi, Kwasi Kwarteng and Amanda Solloway - an opportunity to discuss Midlands Engine work within their ministerial portfolios. In addition, the All Party Parliamentary Group have held sub-group meetings on transport and energy in the Midlands in recent weeks.



Midlands Engine statement on the Government Spending Review

Rachael Greenwood, Executive Director, Midlands Engine said: "We welcome the Government's commitment to levelling up and to a green recovery with a £4 billion fund for local projects, a new National Infrastructure Bank and reforms to the Green Book methodology to make sure Government spending is distributed more fairly across the country."

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Midlands Engine Health launched

Midlands Engine is pleased to announce the launch of Midlands Engine Health, designed to bring together industry, academic and health sector partners to champion and amplify our region's world-leading strengths in Health, Medical Technologies & Life Sciences.

There will be an in-depth feature on Midlands Engine Health in our January 2021 newsletter.

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Midlands Engine Economic Observatory publish new reports

Showing usage figures for both schemes across
the Midlands Engine up to November 2020

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme



MIDLANDS INVESTMENT SHOWCASE



Focus on... £17.6 billion worth of investment opportunities in the Midlands

In late November, stakeholders from across the Midlands Engine partnership joined forces to showcase to an audience of international investors £17.6 billion worth of exceptional investment opportunities in the Midlands. Led by the Midlands Engine and taking place entirely on a virtual platform, the Midlands UK Forum For Growth was the first event of its kind to be held by any region in the UK. This month's in-depth read gives a

snapshot of this landmark event, featuring voices from across our partnership on everything from zero-carbon, urban renewal and infrastructure, to 5G, life sciences, logistics and more.

READ IN DEPTH

“The opportunity for investors - here in the Midlands - is, I believe, unrivalled in the UK.” Sir John Peace

“The value that we can get by a Freeport designation is just immense for the region and the UK as a whole. Cargo has always been part of our growth strategy.”

Clare James, Managing Director, East Midlands Airport



“I think we’re going to need localism on steroids now. I think capital is attracted to teams that work together; I think folk that are ready to receive investment will get investment, but I think we’re

going to have to step forward in a very decisive and coherent way ... and together, place by place, town by town, city by city."

Jackie Sadek, Founder and Chief Operating Officer, UK Regeneration



"In a post-Covid world, where we need to build back better, where we need to create the environment for real creativity and innovation in our economy, there is an opportunity to use the capacity at Infinity Park Derby to diversify, to decarbonise and to support the economic growth we so desperately need to maintain our economy into the future."

Rachel North, Deputy Chief Executive, Derby City Council



“...the one thing I always try and encourage SMEs to look at ... you've usually got a very good product or a very good service, and that's why you survive because you need a good product. Try and take that product overseas. Exporting is so good for your business. It reduces risk, it reduces dependency.”

Ian Stuart, Chief Executive, HSBC UK



“The South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone is positioned to lead this wider cluster at the heart of the UK’s Food Valley, bringing together the business community and the public sector and knowledge base to drive forward the agri-food sector.”

Tim Downing, Director, Pygott and Crone



"A global pandemic, climate change, economic uncertainty ... the sun isn't shining, your investments may not be performing at their best. But it is the decisions you make now, when conditions are challenging, that will define you and ensure your future success. Now is the time to be brave and bold, to be decisive. And for those who take the leap now, their rewards will be greatest."

Maria Machancoses, Director, Midlands Connect



MORE NEWS FROM THE MIDLANDS

Keele's Breaking the Mould awards recognise local success

Some of the region's most innovative organisations have been acknowledged for their achievements at Keele University's Breaking the Mould awards, part of the University's commitment to developing

an inclusive open innovation community in the region.

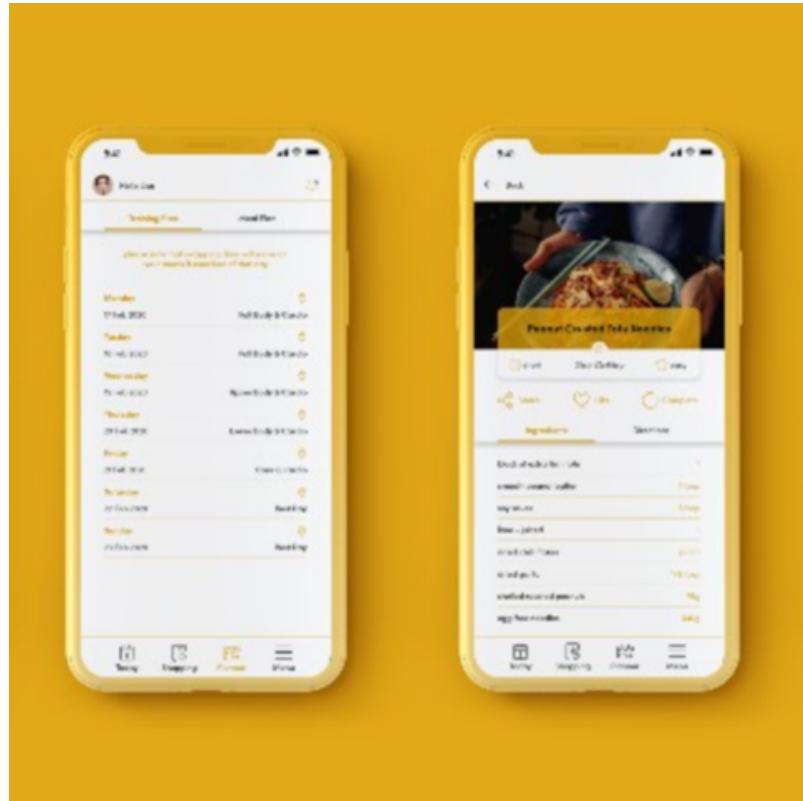
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Loughborough University leads development of unique health app

Experts at Loughborough University have teamed up with the UK's leading health and wellbeing store, Holland and Barrett, to create a unique personalised health and fitness app.

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Step forward for National Rehabilitation Centre proposals

Leaders of the National Rehabilitation Centre programme have welcomed the news that the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group has given its backing to the initiative following a wide-ranging public consultation this summer.

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