

The second annual [State of the Region 2021 report](#) for the Midlands Engine was launched in December, providing partners with extensive and granular detail, in a new interactive format, on the impact the challenges over the last year have had on our business, places and communities of the Midlands.

In 2019 the GVA of the Midlands Engine was higher than any other UK region outside of London and the South East and accounted for 14% of the England total – however the gap in GVA per head continues to grow, leading to a productivity gap of over £82bn – a increase of £10bn since 2016. However rising business starts and earnings rising faster than the national average provide opportunity for growth across the region. 1 million more residents are qualified to NVQ Level 4 and above compared to 2004. The report was showcased at our fourth [Quarterly Economic Briefing](#). The event included presentations by leading global and national economists from HSBC and Barclays and a video was produced with our local experts.

November's [Economic Impact Monitor](#) focused on localised data and trends and explored major global societal change. In December we published a deep dive into digital with comprehensive analysis from digital poverty and digital skills to the digital business base and the supporting infrastructure.

November also saw the launch of the Midlands Engine [Natural Capital Monitor](#) at Nottingham's COP26 event. It is a fantastic tool which has been developed by the Midlands Engine Observatory working with partners that showcases our natural assets across the entire region and helps with understanding the value of these assets.

The tool includes sections on Protected Habitats, Rivers and Canals, Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity, Drivers affecting biodiversity loss, A natural capital scorecard and highlights some key case studies across our region. The Natural Capital Monitor positively supports a climate first approach to placemaking. We have finally put an economic value on our green and blue assets and the services they provide.

In celebration of Social Enterprise Day, we launched an Observatory report looking at the contribution of the [Social Enterprise Sector](#) to the overall economy.

Social enterprises deliver economically, environmentally and socially. They are a growing part of the business sector, contributing across all areas of our economy and society. This survey, using the results from our partner, Social Enterprise UK, accessing their 2021 National Survey, explores how social enterprises are growing financially, delivering economic and social impact, and providing leadership and solutions to social and environmental challenges.

January 2022

Publication of research into Women in Leadership across the Midlands focusing on improving our understanding of the current state of gender diversity in leadership in the Midlands

28th - Midlands Engine Economic Impact monitor - Brexit 12 months on - impact on the Midlands Engine Economy

Publication of Midlands Engine Research into innovative methods of Green Finance

February 2022

Publication of research into the potential for the create of a Net Zero Carbon Ecosystem across the Midlands Engine to accelerate the transition to net zero emissions

Delving deeper into the growth potential of our Manufacturing base and the publication of a sector deep dive on the Health and Life Sciences sector in the Midland Engine: Developing and Supporting Manufacturing Capacity

25th - Publication of Midlands Engine Economic Impact monitor

March 2022

16th - Quarterly Economic Briefing focusing on women in leadership

31st - Publication of Midlands Engine Economic Impact monitor