



# MIDLANDS ENGINE

## IMPACT THROUGH AMBITION & COLLABORATION

**Pan-Regional Partnership Highlights 2021**

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MARCH 2022

# Working together, we achieve the greatest impact and bring benefit to every part of the Midlands

## 2021 KEY MILESTONES



### FOREWORD

The Midlands is a region of exceptional ingenuity, ambition

and enterprise. We deliver products, services and innovations, not just across the UK but to every corner of the globe - providing Midlands solutions to global challenges and powering the UK economy.

The pandemic is not yet over and we must remember that the Midlands has been one of the worst affected regions with extreme hardships experienced across many sectors. But our eyes must look to the future - to the prospect of further devolution and harnessing the amassed power of our partnership, at scale and at pace, to deliver on the levelling up agenda for every part of our region.

I believe that there has never been a better time for true partnership working in the Midlands, as these pages, which detail just some of our many collaborative achievements over the last year, clearly show. Thanks to our partners' drive, co-investment and commitment to working together for the benefit of the Midlands, 2021 has given us much to celebrate. Together, we will create so many more opportunities in 2022 and beyond to champion the region of which we are all so proud, and to drive economic growth and shared prosperity for all our communities.

**Sir John Peace, Chairman, Midlands Engine**

#### Celebrating a £26 billion regional sector strength

First ever Midlands Health & Life Science Symposium convened



#### Mobilising private & public sector partnerships to drive regional prosperity

Scale of partner investment and collaboration commitments increase



#### Collaborating to pinpoint digital investment with the UK's first pan regional connected map

Digital connected map published and deployed



#### Collaborating to tackle regional & national health inequalities

Midlands Engine, Midlands Health Alliance & Novo Nordisk develop recommendations to tackle diabetes



#### Supporting growth with Midlands-specific intelligence, evidence & insights

Midlands Engine Observatory grows and interactive regional Intelligence Hub launched, bringing tailored data to partners



#### Crystallising & championing our region's pivotal role in low carbon hydrogen

Midlands Engine Hydrogen Technologies Strategy published, led by industry partners



#### Driving action, in collaboration, for a cleaner, green future

Industry-led Ten Point Plan for Green Growth published and mobilised by partners



#### Championing world-leading manufacturing capabilities, innovation and potential

Midlands Engine Makes & Manufacturing Opportunities reports published



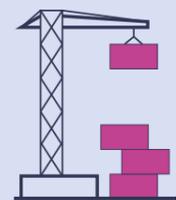
#### Harnessing private sector leadership across the Midlands

Midlands Engine Business Council launched



#### Advocating for international trading hubs in our region

Partner success as Humber & East Midlands Freeports announced



#### Quantifying the impact & value of our natural environment

Natural Capital Story Map published during COP26 for partner use



## A LOOK AHEAD TO 2022

#### Championing regional digital capability & innovation

Partners assemble for Midlands Engine Digital Conference



#### Enabling greater targeting of investment & interventions

Delivering a comprehensive Midlands Engine Research Portfolio through our Observatory



#### Connecting young people's insights to drive a cleaner, greener future

Young People's Green Growth Assembly



#### Accelerating pan-regional growth & investment

A sustained focus on strategic corridors A50/500 and A46



#### Accelerating gigabit connectivity in our region

Advancing the first regional Gigahubs programme in the UK



#### Driving positive impact for our partnership and region

Digital, Health and Global & Investment Action Plans completed and mobilised



#### Improving transport connections within our region and with the rest of the UK

Midlands Connect Strategic Plan



#### Highlighting priority capital investment opportunities for the Midlands

Midlands Engine Investment Portfolio spotlights partner-led investment opportunities



#### Showcasing innovation and leadership for wellbeing and productivity

Second Midlands Health Life Sciences Symposium



#### Championing new models of finance to unlock green sector funding

Driving innovation in the Green Finance landscape at our Summit



#### Growing and building momentum and opportunity in our low carbon journey

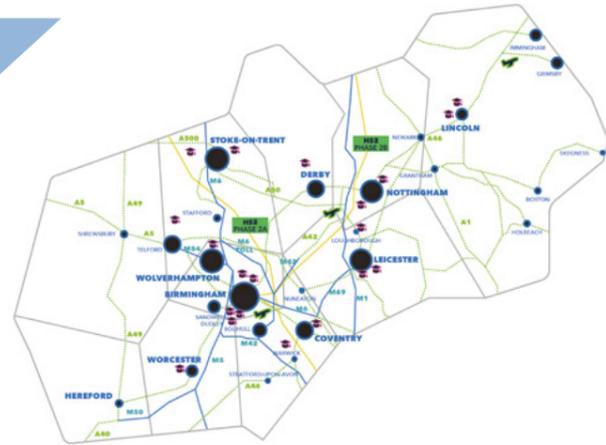
Partners celebrate achievements at Green Growth Conference



# PARTNERING FOR PROSPERITY

## CHAMPIONING OUR REGION, ACTING AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

The Midlands Engine partnership brings collective capability and amassed scale to underpin recovery, prosperity and economic growth. Encompassing the private sector, local authorities, local enterprise partnerships, universities and NHS trusts, together we work to identify, prioritise and capitalise on major economic opportunities, as we level up our region and grow its global footprint.



### HARNESSING PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERSHIP ACROSS THE MIDLANDS

**First Midlands Engine Business Council** FEBRUARY 2021

The Business Council brings together 30 renowned entrepreneurs and business leaders from across our region to collaborate on how best to drive growth and productivity, and act as a conduit for the private sector into government. In March, the Council had the opportunity to discuss Budget matters with Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP, and now meets every six months.



"The places where we've grown up, the places that we love, the places where our families live - these are the places that we want to see succeed. That has been the principle behind the Midlands Engine. That's the approach that we're taking to levelling up."

**Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, speaking at the Conservative Party Conference**



"Our partnership connects collective capability from the private and public sectors - harnessing amassed scale to drive recovery, prosperity and economic growth. Our actions together are focused on evidenced regional need, which means we target our collective effort for the good of our communities, our businesses and places."

**Dr Nik Kotecha OBE, Chairman, Morningside Pharmaceuticals & Midlands Engine Business Council**

### MOBILISING OUR REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY VOICE

**First Midlands Engine All-Party Parliamentary Group AGM** MAY 2021

A cross-party forum for MPs and peers based in, or with an interest in, the Midlands, our APPG champions our region in Parliament. As well as celebrating a year of achievements since being established, including increasing levels of inward investment and the relocation of government departments, monthly sub groups were also convened around digital, the visitor economy, transport and health.



"The Midlands Engine APPG plays a crucial cross-party role in supporting economic growth in the Midlands. This group provides both a forum for Midlands MPs and peers to receive crucial data and analysis of the economic performance of the region, and for parliamentarians to collectively raise the issues which matter most in delivering economic growth for the Midlands Engine."

**Darren Henry, MP for Broxtowe and Co-Chair of Midlands Engine APPG**

### SHOWCASING PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATION & IMPACT TO PARLIAMENTARIANS

**Midlands Engine attends Party Conferences** AUTUMN 2021



The Labour and Conservative party conferences were a chance to champion our work in partnership to Chancellor Rishi Sunak, Health Secretary Sajid Javid, Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves and many more Midlands MPs. This included our ground-breaking digital connected map of the Midlands which will help our region to overcome digital poverty; the vital work of our health and life sciences sector; and plans to extend our international reach in support of levelling up.



Click on the links to find out more

- EXPLORE MORE**
- Midlands Engine APPG
  - Our partners, our region

# GREEN GROWTH

## POWERING OUR NET ZERO FUTURE

In the year the world's leaders gathered to discuss accelerated action on climate change at COP26, the Midlands Engine partnership went further than any other region in translating government low-carbon ambitions into a regional plan for net zero. Exceptional work in low carbon is already underway across our vast Midlands Engine partnership landscape, making the Midlands a leading location for green growth. But the potential for more is phenomenal.

### DRIVING ACTION, IN COLLABORATION, FOR A CLEANER, GREEN FUTURE

#### Ten Point Plan for Green Growth in the Midlands Engine

JULY 2021

Our industry-led Ten Point Plan is the first time a unified vision has been proposed to deliver a greener future for Midlands communities, in support of government plans for a Green Industrial Revolution. It is being driven forward by over 300 regional partners, including Browne Jacobson, Siemens Energy, Alstom, Barclays Bank, Energy Research Accelerator, local enterprise partnerships, National Trust, Cadent Gas, and Woodland Trust. Our actions together have the potential to deliver a 36% reduction in CO2 emissions, 196,000 high-value, high-skill jobs and a further £24.2 billion for our region's economy.



### LEADING THE WAY ON HYDROGEN-POWERED HGVS

#### H2GVMids collaboration secures government funding

JULY 2021

H2GVMids was developed by the Energy Research Accelerator, with support from EDF Energy, Cenex and Midlands Engine. Working alongside industry partners such as Arcola Energy, Toyota, Intelligent Energy and ITM Motive, the consortium is now preparing the ground for a green-hydrogen-fuelled 44-tonne truck demonstration programme in the Midlands.



"We are delighted to be involved in and support the Midlands Engine Partnership in this Green Growth agenda and look forward to working with colleagues in the mobilisation and delivery of an ambitious Ten Point Plan, a plan that aims to benefit all parts of the Midlands as we accelerate programmes and initiatives to reach net zero."

**Steve Scrimshaw, Vice President, Siemens Energy UK&I**

### MAPPING OUR REGION'S GREEN GROWTH ASSETS



#### JUNE 2021 Midlands Engine Green Growth Digital Map

Developed to showcase our region's flagship projects, facilities, key industry leaders and exemplar case studies.

#### NOVEMBER 2021 Midlands Engine Natural Capital Monitor

Places a monetary value on our region's natural assets and provides data sources to aid partners in protecting them.

### CRYSTALLISING AND CHAMPIONING OUR REGION'S ROLE IN LOW CARBON HYDROGEN

#### Midlands Engine Hydrogen Technologies Strategy

DECEMBER 2021

Our pioneering Hydrogen Technologies Strategy highlights how the rapidly growing Hydrogen Technologies Valley in the Midlands is uniquely placed to connect hydrogen supply and demand. Independent analysis demonstrates that mobilising to implement the ten actions set out in the strategy could deliver 167,000 new or safeguarded jobs, £10bn GVA to the Midlands and UK economy and 29% CO2 reduction against current levels in the next ten years - through these interventions alone.



"Hydrogen has the potential to slash emissions and protect consumers from high global gas prices while creating thousands of jobs. Industrial heartlands like the Midlands will play a vital role in our green industrial revolution and this Strategy draws on skills and expertise across the region as well as its proud history of innovation."

**Greg Hands, Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change**



"The global hydrogen economy has been built by pioneering businesses like Adelan over the last 25 years. Thus, the Midlands has shaped hydrogen policies around the world, and I was honoured to be voted the Hydrogen Champion of the UK by Mission Innovation in 2020.

We continue to catalyse the hydrogen opportunity, to ensure the delivery of net zero using hydrogen technologies in vehicles, devices and homes."

**Dr Michaela Kendall, CEO, Adelan**



Click on the links to find out more



### EXPLORE MORE

- Ten Point Plan for Green Growth in the Midlands Engine
- Midlands Engine Hydrogen Technologies Strategy
- Midlands Engine Green Growth Digital Map
- Midlands Engine Natural Capital Monitor



# HEALTH

## PIONEERING IN HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES

The Midlands Engine region is a powerhouse of collaborative capabilities within the health and life sciences sector, generating around £26 billion GVA annually and tackling health inequalities. Our region is home to the largest cluster of MedTech companies in the UK generating £1 billion a year for the UK economy, 1,200 life sciences businesses, seven leading medical schools and two of the three largest NHS Trusts. We also host the UK's largest Clinical Trials Unit and the UK Centre for black and minority ethnic health.

### SUPPORTING WORKPLACE WELLBEING AND INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY

**Mental Health & Productivity Pilot** AUGUST 2021  
**Bridge the Gap, Start a Chat campaign**

With research showing that mental health is one of the biggest causes of sickness absences in Midlands businesses, this initiative focused on tips and advice on getting conversations started, as well as a resource pack for employers to use to start their own internal campaigns. Promoting good health and wellbeing in the workplace has a direct link with better productivity – a win-win scenario for employers and employees.



"The Mental Health and Productivity Pilot is helping increase awareness of mental health at work in the Midlands among both employers and staff, helping employers understand how to better support their staff and equipping employees with the tools they need to better look after themselves."

**Paul Farmer, chief executive, Mind**

### COLLABORATING TO TACKLE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL HEALTH INEQUALITIES

**Roundtable to develop recommendations to tackle diabetes** JULY 2021

The Midlands has the highest prevalence of diabetes of all NHS regions and therefore represents a major challenge to the health of the Midlands population and economy. Midlands Engine, Midlands Health Alliance and Novo Nordisk came together as part of a wider programme of activity aimed at developing a 'Regional Blueprint' report for addressing the impact of diabetes on individuals, the health service and the economy in the Midlands.



### SHOWCASING A £26 BILLION REGIONAL SECTOR STRENGTH

**First Midlands Health and Life Science Symposium** NOVEMBER 2021

This signature event was sponsored by Midlands Engine Health, an initiative led by regional partners including the MTIF, Morningside Pharmaceuticals, The Binding Site, NHS Confederation, NIHR and Greater Lincs LEP. Partners, Medilink Midlands and MI Health convened academic, industry and clinical experts to showcase Midlands strengths and expertise in health. The event, the first of its type, strengthened networks and highlighted our unique regional capabilities, as we work to grow and accelerate the Midlands life sciences, MedTech and health sector, a phenomenal UK asset as we tackle health inequalities.

#### THE MIDLANDS HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR ACCOUNTS FOR:

- ✓ £25.8 billion GVA
- ✓ 606,789 jobs
- ✓ 16,173 companies



"The range of topics, speakers and workshops at this symposium highlights the breadth and strength of expertise we have within the Midlands. I'm delighted we have been able to showcase our regional strengths and the extensive work that is taking

place to advance health and medicine through research and clinical trials, train future medical staff and improve patient care."

**Professor Pauline Walsh, Convenor for MI Health Pro Vice Chancellor and Executive Dean of Medicine and Health Sciences, Keele University**

Click on the links to find out more

#### EXPLORE MORE

- Midlands Engine Health: A unified voice for health and life sciences in our region
- Midlands Engine Health: Focus on Health Diversity
- Midlands Engine Health: Focus on Clinical Trials
- Midlands Engine Health: Focus on Trauma and Rehabilitation
- Midlands Engine Health: Focus on MedTech
- Mobilising Research Excellence in the Midlands to Tackle COVID-19

# DIGITAL

## UNLOCKING THE POWER OF DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

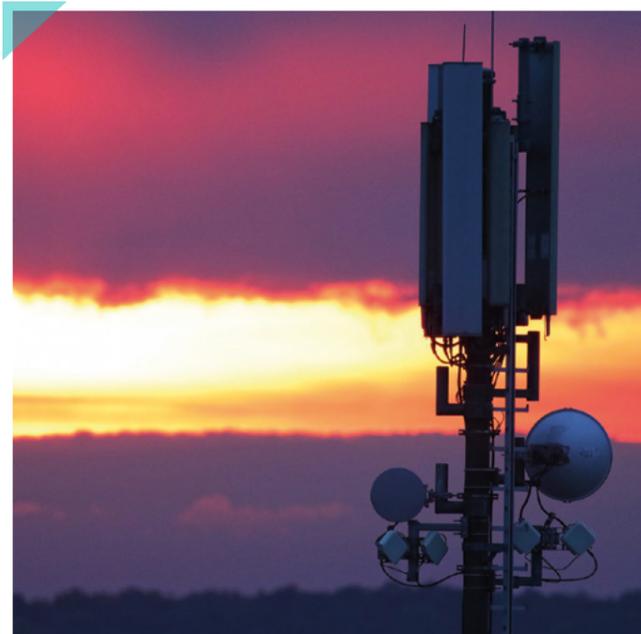
Enabling smart public services and digitalised business right across the Midlands is a key focus to promote regional competitiveness. As we drive digital levelling up across our region, we are creating a network of digitised businesses and exceptional digital skills and bridging the 'digital poverty' divide exacerbated by the pandemic. Connecting every part of our region is a fundamental need, for regional prosperity and to amplify the role our region plays on the world stage.

### COLLABORATING TO PINPOINT DIGITAL INVESTMENT

UK's most comprehensive Digital Connected Map

MAY 2021

For the first time, we have a full understanding of regional connectivity thanks to the Midlands Engine Digital Connected Map. Working together with mobile operators, local authority partners, Ordnance Survey, universities and our partners, we have developed this game-changing asset. It is a comprehensive record of public assets, broadband, 4G, 5G and fibre + gigabit connections, providing an invaluable picture of current coverage and where services are needed most - to target investment that can accelerate connectivity in the Midlands and drive regional economic prosperity.



"Digital infrastructure and access to connectivity are essential to members of a modern society. If we are to truly close the gap on the regional disparities we face across the UK, digital must play a central role as we look to recover from the pandemic and support those communities who have been hit hardest by the impacts of COVID. The Midlands Engine is leading this call, displaying their convening power in the Midlands and shining a light on the importance of industry, academic and local government collaboration when calling for additional government investment."

**Lord Coaker, Vice Chair of Midlands Engine All-Party Parliamentary Group and Shadow Spokesperson for Home Affairs**

### SEIZING DIGITAL POTENTIAL

Discontinuous Innovation in the Midlands Engine (DIME)

SEPTEMBER 2021

Our DIME report focuses on helping our partnership identify and understand the gap between where we are now with technology adoption and application. Huge potential exists to be an early adopter of the technologies of the future, which will continue to transform business and industry. Delivered by our Midlands Engine Observatory, with work led by Loughborough and Coventry Universities, key findings highlight how a technology 'leapfrog' might be possible (e.g. expediting 3G areas direct to 5G, 6G or satellite) and how future technologies might be brought to our region first as they emerge.

### CONNECTING HARD-TO-REACH HOMES AND BUSINESSES

Project Gigabit

ONGOING

The government has launched Project Gigabit with the aim of connecting one million of the hardest-to-reach homes and businesses to next generation gigabit broadband. The Midlands Engine and our partners WM5G began working with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to explore ways we can accelerate roll-out in the Midlands.

### 5G IN THE MIDLANDS

- ✓ £5bn value over the next five years
- ✓ £15.9bn value over the subsequent five years



### THE WORLD'S FIRST 5G CONNECTED FOREST

"There is no better opportunity to trial 5G in a forest setting anywhere else in the UK - not just for the area's geography, but for its rich and fascinating history.

"I see the 5G Connected Forest project as the start of a journey that will truly see Nottinghamshire on the regional, national and international tourism and environment management maps; as well as providing us with the opportunity to build the digital skills and opportunities of our residents and businesses."

**Anthony May, Chief Executive Officer, Nottinghamshire County Council**

Click on the links to find out more



### EXPLORE MORE

Accelerating Digital Connectivity



# MIDLANDS ENGINE OBSERVATORY

## EVIDENCING OUR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

The Midlands Engine Observatory is the only pan-regional Observatory in England. It is a vital alliance of leading academic researchers and economic and industry experts working together to gather the data and intelligence that can shape policy, help target investment for recovery and growth, and measure levelling up progress - in every part of our region.



### INFORMING DECISION MAKING WITH UP-TO-THE-MINUTE DATA

Quarterly Economic Briefing series and State of the Region 2021 report ONGOING

In 2021, we launched our quarterly series of virtual economic briefings providing up-to-the-minute data, analysis and intelligence to representatives from local authorities, local enterprise partnerships, universities, government and the private sector. The 2021 series culminated in our State of the Region 2021 report, including a briefing on the impact and implications of Covid-19 and the EU Exit on the Midlands and featuring presentations from HSBC and Barclays.



"Levelling up means closing the productivity gap, driving growth, prosperity for our communities and social mobility. It means tackling deprivation hot spots and creating opportunities for today's and future generations."

**Sarah Middleton, CEO Black Country Consortium & Chair, Midlands Engine Observatory Board**

Click on the links to find out more



### EXPLORE MORE

- Midlands Engine Intelligence Hub
- State of the Region Report 2021
- Latest Observatory data and research



### SUPPORTING GROWTH WITH MIDLANDS-SPECIFIC INTELLIGENCE, EVIDENCE AND INSIGHTS

Midlands Engine Intelligence Hub launch JULY 2021

The Midlands Engine Intelligence Hub provides a single, interactive portal for all our Observatory intelligence. Putting the power of this data and research at the



fingertips of diverse private and public sector partners, the Hub will bring multiple potential benefits to the region, such as stronger business cases for investment, along with robust comparisons, benchmarking and forecasting to support policy recommendations. Such data and insights also help inform reactions to government policy and lobbying, and provide a better understanding of regional needs and opportunities for targeted investment.

### MIDLANDS ENGINE OBSERVATORY



- ✓ The only pan-regional Observatory in England
- ✓ Secured £500,000 of co-investment from universities and other academic partners
- ✓ Holds quarterly economic briefings to share and discuss latest research and data

# MANUFACTURING

## INNOVATING AND ADAPTING TO MEET NEW CHALLENGES

The Midlands accounts for 20% of all England's exports and generates £246 billion for the UK economy - the majority from the manufacturing sector. We have a unique concentration of R&D energy infrastructure and wide-ranging capabilities and innovation strengths, all led by dynamic businesses and world-leading research centres. Our region was the original global manufacturing pioneer and we continue to lead the world through our innovative responses to unlock productivity for growth and prosperity.



"The Midlands helped to power the first global Industrial Revolution and has remained the manufacturing heartland of the UK ever since. It is a leading light in innovation and ingenuity that drives our economy. With strengths in goods from cars and medicines to textiles and food, the Midlands Engine will help to power our mission to level up communities across the UK."

**The Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities**

### CHAMPIONING WORLD-LEADING MANUFACTURING CAPABILITIES, INNOVATION AND POTENTIAL

Midlands Manufacturing strengths and opportunities reports AUGUST & NOVEMBER 2021

Two new reports - Midlands Engine Makes and Midlands Engine Manufacturing Opportunities - were published to highlight the exceptional breadth of production within our region and the vast economic benefits of capitalising on new challenges and opportunities.



"For too long our economy has been dominated by London and the South East, while inequality between UK regions has been allowed to grow. We believe a revolution in manufacturing will bring greater growth and opportunity to the Midlands - and to the whole country."

**Andy Cook, Chief Executive, The Centre for Social Justice**

### INSPIRING A NATIONAL MANUFACTURING REVOLUTION

Midlands manufacturers convene NOVEMBER 2021

In partnership with leading UK think tank, The Centre for Social Justice, Midlands Engine, Make UK and East Midlands Chamber brought together over 50 of our region's leading manufacturers to discuss the sector's role in levelling up the UK. It is the first stage in developing new policies, due to be published in spring 2023, to encourage government



to promote and enhance manufacturing at the heart of the UK's economic and social regeneration. Boosting manufacturing has a key role in creating regional growth and reducing geographical inequality, leading to higher productivity and better wages for all.

Click on the links to find out more



### EXPLORE MORE

- Midlands Engine Makes
- Midlands Engine Manufacturing Opportunities



# TRANSPORT

## INVESTING IN TRANSPORT FOR GROWTH

Midlands Connect, the transport arm of the Midlands Engine, is working with partners to decarbonise our region's transport network, with a focus on more charging points, improving public transport and reducing congestion. Midlands Connect's rail programme, Midlands Engine Rail, comprises seven major projects that will transform our rail connections within and right across our region as well as with the rest of the country.



### BETTER CONNECTING COVENTRY, LEICESTER AND NOTTINGHAM

**Midlands Connect report promotes direct rail links** MAY 2021

Hailed by The Mayor of Leicester and the Leader of Coventry City Council as a 'once in a generation opportunity' to better connect the three great cities, the report highlighted the potential to create over 2 million extra train seats on the region's rail network every year, significantly cut journey times, and encourage the switch from road to rail journeys.

### CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF DECARBONISING TRANSPORT

**Midlands COP Conference** JUNE 2021

At the conference, Midlands Connect launched Alternative Fuels: Beyond Fossils, a report outlining plans for an £800 million alternative fuels network that could create an international centre of excellence for the charging of commercial vehicles with hydrogen and natural gas. In addition, figures were released indicating that full delivery of the Midlands Engine Rail infrastructure programme could create and safeguard thousands of jobs, as well as deliver extra passenger services and cut emissions.

### LANDMARK REPORT ON FUTURE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES

**Midlands Connect Supercharging the Midlands** SEPTEMBER 2021

In September, Midlands Connect released vital analysis of current and future electric vehicle (EV) use across the region. It suggested that EV use will increase by over 3,000% by the end of the decade, and that installation of public EV charging points must be six times as fast to support growing demand. Midlands Connect is now working together with partners to create a region-wide EV strategy to overcome the challenges of installing the infrastructure required to ensure the Midlands can keep pace with change.



"Midlands Connect is working in partnership with government to deliver a transport network fit for the future, and to build back better after COVID-19. What's really positive about Midlands Engine Rail is that as well as boosting train travel, by creating 30million extra passenger seats every year, it will also create and safeguard thousands of jobs."

**Sir John Peace, Chairman, Midlands Engine**

Click on the links to find out more

**EXPLORE MORE**

- Midlands Connect Alternative Fuels Report
- Midlands Engine Rail

# GLOBAL & INVESTMENT

## EXTENDING OUR INTERNATIONAL REACH

The Midlands Engine partnership has an important role to play in turning Global Britain into reality. By identifying and activating inward investment opportunities, we aim to expand our global footprint in support of levelling up. Increasing inward investment and exports will also help to close the £82 billion productivity gap in the Midlands leading to greater prosperity for our communities and economic growth at scale.



### STRENGTHENING OUR REGION'S RELATIONS WITH THE USA

**Maryland Memorandum of Understanding** JANUARY 2021

Building on the existing 2017 agreement to promote economic development, assist cybersecurity companies in Maryland and the Midlands, and draw investments into each region, Sir John Peace and Kelly Schulz, Maryland Secretary of Commerce, signed an extension to the MOU between the two regions. The MOU provides a powerful platform for businesses from our region to extend their global reach.

### ADVOCATING FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADING HUBS IN OUR REGION

**Two Midlands Freeports announced** ONGOING

In his March budget, the Chancellor announced the creation of the Freeports of Humber Ports and East Midlands Airport - a decision that was strongly advocated for by Midlands Engine partners. These international trading hubs will play a crucial role in levelling up our region, supporting our plans to drive up economic potential, rapidly accelerating existing initiatives, increasing investment and delivering long-term regional growth.

### HIGHLIGHTING PRIORITY CAPITAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR REGION

**Midlands Investment Portfolio** ONGOING

Working with partners, we have developed an exceptional Midlands Investment Portfolio, setting out partner priority investment opportunities, highlighting future foreign direct investment clusters and featuring pan-regional sectoral strengths in green growth, digital, health and life sciences. Underpinned by data from our Observatory, it will be launched in May 2022. Showcasing a pipeline of over 60 inward investment opportunities and representing over £26.5bn GDV, securing this investment has the potential to deliver over 150,000 Midlands jobs.



"The opportunities the Freeport will bring, with two tax zones approved and a third which will come through, are fantastic and enable us to go on with all that decarbonisation offers to the North and South Bank through offshore wind, hydrogen and carbon capture, alongside the manufacturing."

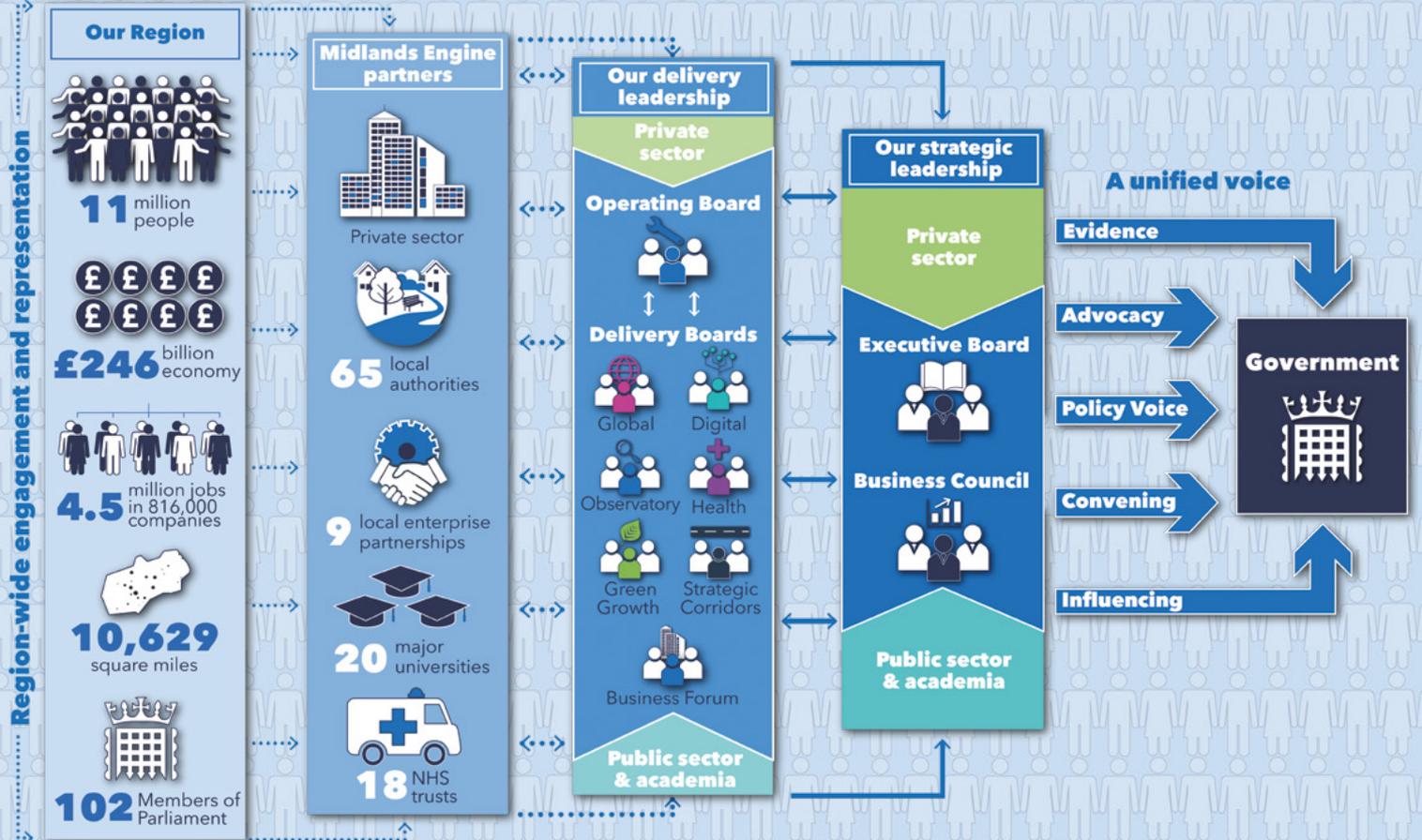
**Simon Bird, APB Humber Ports Director**

Click on the links to find out more

**EXPLORE MORE**

- Midlands Engine Global

# Our Midlands Engine Partnership



**Our Partnership** - The Midlands Engine is the largest regional economy in the UK outside London and the place that 11 million people call home. Our Midlands Engine partnership spans the heart of the UK. Working at scale, we focus on adding value - tackling the things that really matter in our region to drive prosperity for our communities and businesses.

**Our Impact** - Together, we make sure the Midlands voice is heard and act as a positive agent for economic, social and environmental change, to benefit every single part of our region. We do this through shared intent, collaborative investment and a unified voice, direct to government.

# MIDLANDS ENGINE



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The Midlands Engine is a coalition of local authorities, local enterprise partnerships, universities and businesses across the region, actively working with government to build a collective identity, to enable us to present the Midlands as a competitive and compelling offer that is attractive at home and overseas.

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Our mailing address is: Midlands Engine, Trent Bridge House, Fox Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6BJ

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