

# MIDLANDS ENGINE

## Midlands Engine Executive Board Reports Pack

27 APRIL 2022

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**Midlands Engine Executive Board Agenda 27 April 2022 13.00 -15.30 Venue: Microsoft Teams**

<b>Membership:</b>	Sir John Peace (SJP) Chairman, Midlands Engine, Cllr Alan White (AL) Leader, Staffordshire County Council, 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, Midlands Engine Operating Board, Cllr Chris Poulter (CP), Leader, Derby City Council, Andy Street (AS) Mayor West Midlands Combined Authority, Cllr Abi Brown (AB) Leader, Stoke-on-Trent Council, Mark Stansfeld (MS) Chair of Worcestershire LEP, Kevin Harris (KH) Chair, of Leicester & Leicestershire LEP, Prof. Trevor McMillan (TM), Vice Chancellor, Keele University, Prof. Edward Peck (EP), Vice Chancellor Nottingham Trent University.
<b>Observers:</b>	Marian Sudbury, DIT Director for UK Regions, John Henderson, Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council, Rachel Dickinson, Areas and Analysis Directorate Cities and Local Growth Unit
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mark Stansfeld (MS) Chair of Worcestershire LEP, Kevin Harris (KH) Chair, of Leicester & Leicestershire LEP, Prof. Trevor McMillan (TM), Vice Chancellor, Keele University, Rachael Greenwood (RG) Executive Director, Midlands Engine, Anthony May (AM) Chair, Midlands Engine Operating Board.
<b>In attendance:</b>	Roger Mendonca, (RM) Director of Delivery, Maria Machancoses (MM) Director, Midlands Connect, Rowena Limb (RL) Area Director, Cities and Local Growth Unit.
<b>Guests:</b>	Lord Grimstone of Boscobel, Kt, (LG) Minister for Investment, (TBC) Prof. Delma Dwight (DD) Director Midlands Engine Observatory, Alex Favier (AF) Director Global and Investment, Midlands Engine
<b>Chairman:</b>	Sir John Peace

Item	Timing	Topic	Paper No.	Lead
<b>1.</b>		<b>Item for discussion</b>		
1.1	13.00 -14.30	<b>Chairman's welcome</b>	Paper:EB22.4.1	Chairman
1.2		<b>Declarations of Interest and Minutes of last meeting</b>		
1.3		<b>Midlands Investment Portfolio</b>	Presentation	
<b>2.</b>		<b>Business items</b>		
2.1	14.30- 15.00	<b>Executive Director's Report</b> – Governance and Delivery	Paper:EB22.4.2	RM
3.	15.00 -15.30	<b>Any Other Business</b>		Chairman
Date of next meeting: <b>20 July 2022, 13.00 – 16.00</b>				

**Draft=** Minutes of the Midlands Engine Executive Board – 21 July 2021

Name	Position
Sir John Peace (SJP)	Chairman of the Board
Anthony May (AM)	Chair, Midlands Engine Operating Board. Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council
Cllr Abi Brown (AB)	Leader, Stoke-on-Trent Council
Cllr Alan White (AW)	West Midlands Councils. Leader, Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Simon Geraghty (SG)	West Midlands Councils. Leader Worcestershire 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
Cllr Martin Hill (MH)	Leader, Lincolnshire Council
Andy Street (AS)	Mayor West Midlands Combined Authority
Mark Stansfield (MS)	West Midlands LEPS. Chair, Worcestershire LEP
Prof. Kathryn Mitchell (KM)	Chair, Midlands Enterprise Universities. Vice Chancellor, University of Derby
Professor Trevor McMillan (TM)	Chair, Midlands Innovation Universities. Vice Chancellor, Keele University
Cllr Bob Sleigh (BS)	West Midlands Combined Authority. Deputy Mayor WMCA
Maria Machancoses (MM)	Programme Director, Midlands Connect
Rowena Limb (RL)	Regional Director, HMG Cities and Local Growth Unit
John Henderson (JH)	Chief Executive Staffordshire County Council
Simon Ablewhite (SA)	Assistant County Treasurer, Staffordshire County Council
Delma Dwight (DD)	Director, Midlands Engine Observatory
Lee Marsham (LM)	Commonwealth Games Organising Committee
Peter Ware (PW)	Partner, Browne Jacobson LLP

**Apologies:**

Marian Sudbury (MS)	Regional Director, HMG DIT
Cllr David Mellen (DM)	East Midland Councils. Leader, Nottingham City Council
Rachael Greenwood (RG)	Executive Director, Midlands Engine

Item	Narrative
1	<b>Introduction &amp; apologies</b>
	<p><b>1.1</b> Chairman’s welcome</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting and welcomed AB to the Board.</p> <p>The Chairman reflected on the launch of the Midlands Engine Ten Point Plan for Green Growth, the inception of the Green Growth Board, the important work of Midlands Engine Health and the Midlands Engine APPG. The Chairman also highlighted the Queen’s Speech which focused on levelling up.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Apologies – Noted above.</p>
2	<b>Declarations of Interest, Minutes of last meeting and matters arising EB21.7.1</b>
	<p><b>2.1.</b> No declarations of interest recorded.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> The Board approved the minutes from the meeting held 21 April 2021.</p> <p>AS asked about a publish date for the Integrated Rail Plan. MM confirmed that conversations are ongoing and publication date is still awaited.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> AS asked if the Board could be updated on the IRP at the next meeting of this Board.</p>
3	<b>Governance Matters and Executive Directors Report EB21.7.2</b>
	<p><b>3.1</b> The Chairman invited AM to update Board Members on Delivery and Governance matters.</p> <p>AM reminded colleagues that the themes and activities reflect government mandated work and reflected on the progress to date. AM thanked partners for their commitment and paid tribute to all those involved in the delivery of the work of the Midlands Engine especially during such challenging times. The Chairman thanked AM and opened the Members for any observations. Members thanked AM for the update and welcomed the updated.</p>
4	<b>Items for Discussion</b>
	<p><b>4.1</b> The Chairman invited LM to provide an update on the <b>Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games</b>.</p> <p>LM explained that there is confidence that the Commonwealth Games will be able to go ahead, despite the challenges of Covid. He outlined the mission for the Games and provided Members with a presentations outlining the corporate and social priorities for the Games.</p> <p>The Chairman invited Members to provide any comments or observations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AS said in the next year, they want the Games to become part of the national story.</li> <li>- LM confirmed the Universities are involved and that students are very interested in volunteering.</li> <li>- KM asked if East Midlands Universities could work with the CWG team to support students to apply.</li> </ul>

**Action: LM said he would share his details with KM.**

- MS asked if there is a KPI of representation attending the Games across the Midlands Engine. LM said they would monitor the locations of attendees, volunteers, workers etc.
- BS asked if LM knows how many people have signed up to be volunteers. BS gave an example of how employment is growing through the games and the inclusion of marginalised communities in opportunities presented by The Games. LM said they are nearly at 50,000 volunteers.
- KH asked how local business can procure for services connected. LM said all procurement is done through the online portal. In Glasgow, just over 70% went to local businesses – they're aiming for the same. LM said there are lots of opportunities for SMEs. KH asked if something could be pushed out through the channels to all members. LM said they are engaged with LEPs and Chambers.
- AS confirmed the Business and Tourism programme would be launched on the 29 July specifically to promote Midlands Businesses.

The Chairman thanked LM for his presentation and for everything he's doing. He asked for further updates and confirmed there is huge support across the Midlands Engine and nationally.

**4.2** The Chairman invited DD to provide an update on the **Midlands Engine Intelligence Hub**.

DD explained this will be a single interactive portal which will enable partners to make decisions around key investments in the Midland. DD gave a tour of the Intelligence Hub.

The Chairman invited Members to provide any comments or observations.

- TM thanked DD for her presentation and asked about the level of resolution and interaction with other intelligence units. DD agreed a single voice is critical.
- MS commented how useful the Hub will be.
- AS thanked DD and asked how the information will demonstrably impact the strategic planning, for example in the CSR? AS said the data needs to be put to good use. AM explained that most of the Midlands Engine workstreams are fed by the Observatory's data. AM said this information must be in the Levelling Up and CSR agenda to outline barriers and what's already been done.

**4.3** The Chairman invited PW to provide an update on the **Midlands Engine Ten Point Plan for Green Growth**.

PW explained the plan is the result of a culmination of 18 months of partnership work and outlined the key themes and delivery through the Green Growth Board. The Shadow Board will be on 28 July and expressed the need to work in partnership and mobilisation.

The Chairman invited Members to provide any comments or observations.

- AS highlighted the importance of gathering the expertise from the constituent parts across the Midlands to take forwards for delivery. PW confirmed the work is driven by partners and is reliant on partner organisations to put resources forward for delivery.
- The Chairman highlighted the importance of working in partnership – the Midlands Engine will be a catalyst for bringing partners together.
- TM asked about time, resource and being joined up. He wondered if message needs changing – ‘how will this work help partners?’
- KM said Ten Point Plan provides clear structure to the region and suggested people report into Midlands Engine about how they are mapping to the Ten Point Plan.
- MH asked about where Green Energy will come from and questioned the rationale behind the work.
- BL commented that the first hydrogen fuel cell may be manufactured in Derbyshire. He said it is important everyone is feeding into the right place and ensuring that small and large businesses can thrive and innovate in this space.

The Chairman said the Board needs clarity about next steps following the production of this plan.

**4.4** The Chairman invited AM to provide an update on the **Midlands Engine approach to the CSR.**

AM explained there is a need for levelling up in the region, and that there are opportunities for doing so which should bring the best of the private and public sector together.

AM explained the Midland Engine’s approach to the CSR is to focus on delivering net zero, innovation, digital expansion, manufacturing, leading in Health and life sciences, the Midlands as a Global Gateway and Transport. Midlands Engine wants to demonstrate that the region is coherent and can speak with one voice. Midlands Engine plans to highlight its asks in a portfolio which, subject to consent, will be pulled together over the summer with the help of the Operating Board, and brought back to the Executive Board in October.

The Chairman invited Members to provide any comments or observations.

- AW asked how areas which don’t qualify for Levelling Up Funds can access investment through the CSR. AM said he hopes this piece of work will be strongly regionally based.
- AB said she is interested in the capital investment fund and asked if it plays into this.
- MS suggested there should there be a conversation before the October meeting.
- SG agreed and said it might be too late to input in the autumn.
- BL said everyone has own wants and needs re: Levelling Up, asking how it can be aligned in what the Midlands Engine puts forward.
- AS said the portfolio need to focus on aspects with potential for the most change.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RL explained there is very little money and that there won't be much time between the announcement and the decision. She suggested focusing on the Engine-wide aspects we can ask the Treasury to consider. What are the things the Engine will want to support partners doing? RL confirmed that the Levelling Up paper will include Devolution thinking. She said it was a good opportunity to think of other offers and ways of doing things.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman concluded and agreed to bring forward an earlier meeting of Board Members to discuss the CSR Portfolio submission ahead of the scheduled October Board meeting.</p> <p><b>Action: CSR Portfolio to be discussed at an earlier meeting of the Executive Board during September.</b></p>
5	<b>AOB</b>
	<p>The Chairman asked if there were other items of business.</p> <p>AS said that due to the critical importance of the IRP, we need to hear from MC at the next Board meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman concluded by suggesting the next Board meeting should be brought forward to September so CSR plan can be discussed.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked participants and closed the meeting.</p>
<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <p>The next meeting of this Board is scheduled for 20 October 2021, but be brought forward to September to discuss CSR</p>	

**Action log:**

Item	Action	Status
1	MM to provide Midlands Connect IRP update at the next Board.	To be brought to the next meeting of this Board
2	LM to share his contact details with KM.	Complete
3	CSR Portfolio to be presented to the Executive Board in October to be brought forward to a September meeting	Complete

<b>Security Level:</b>	Confidential	Restricted	Unclassified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commercially Sensitive
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<b>Meeting &amp; Date:</b>	Midlands Engine Executive Board - 27 April 2022			
<b>Subject:</b>	Executive Director's Report			
<b>Attachments:</b>				
<b>Author:</b>	Director of Delivery, Midlands Engine	<b>Total no of sheets:</b> (incl. cover sheet)		
<b>Papers are provided for:</b>	Approval	Discussion	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**Summary & Recommendation:**

**Summary**

This report updates members on the key issues and opportunities for the Midlands Engine.

**Recommendations to:**

Members are asked to note updates on:

1. Convening activity
2. Advocacy activity
3. Action Plans
4. Budget and Governance

The Midlands Engine supports the efforts of its partners to create a thriving, inclusive and green business environment that will provide a better quality of life for Midlands communities and the nation as a whole. We focus on the hidden wiring that powers a successful 21<sup>st</sup> century economy (connectivity, transition to a green economy, health and global investment) and use our unique pan-regional perspective to identify and evidence transformational opportunities that can be seized by bringing partners together (convening) and/or by unlocking Government policy and investment decisions (advocacy). Current key issues and opportunities for the Engine are set out below.

## **Convening activity**

Working effectively with partners is key to the success of the Engine and the Executive are committed to continuously improving relations to enable delivery of the best possible outcomes for the region. In addition to the oversight provided by the stakeholder Operating Board, there are regular meetings of partnership experts on our thematic groups - Digital Strategy Board and Steering Group, Health Board and Green Growth Board. Alongside this, regular liaison meetings are in place with key partners including WMCA, Midland Enterprise Universities and Midlands Innovation, task and finish groups are in place for project work, such as on the Strategic Economic Corridors, and ad hoc meetings have been taking place to better understand how the Engine can support our partners on their key priorities, such as the Gigafactory proposal in Coventry and the STEP Programme in Nottinghamshire.

In January the Midlands Engine and HSBC jointly hosted an online Digital Conference to share the findings of the digital connectivity mapping undertaken by the Observatory and to provide an opportunity for partners from the public, private and academic sectors to share best practice on the use of digital to improve performance. The Conference was attended by Julia Lopez, Minister of State for Media, Data and Digital Infrastructure in DCMS.

In March we hosted the Young Person's Green Growth Assembly. This provided an opportunity for young people across the region to share their hopes and aspirations for the future, and for local companies and Universities to share their ground-breaking work on green technologies. The Assembly was an inspiring event, and a number of partners made pledges to deliver change that would help regenerate the environment. Progress on these pledges will be reviewed as part of the September One Year On Green Growth Action Plan event.

One recent major success which our convening work helped secure, was TfWM's bid for £30m of ZEBRA funding from DfT for a fleet of hydrogen buses for the West Midlands. This could be a significant catalyst for the region to move forward hydrogen demand, refuelling infrastructure and the development of the regional supply chain. The Green Growth team were able to provide a strategic contribution to the bid, based on the Hydrogen Technologies Strategy, and provide introductions to the H2GV Mids project team - who inputted into the final business case to demonstrate the wider strategic regional value of a successful bid. As the project moves rapidly into a delivery stage, we continue to liaise with TfWM and have made further introductions to the Energy Research Accelerator (ERA) to discuss how HyDEX and the industrial advisory board could support with coordination and synchronisation on next steps, and the West Midlands Growth Company to discuss potential inward investment opportunities which could be unlocked on the back of the Government funding.

## **Advocacy activity**

Using our unique pan-regional perspective to advise Government on policy and investment decisions is a core part of how the Midlands Engine provides added value to its partners. Current projects being led by the Partnership are Regional Gigahubs, which could attract £17m to the region to bring gigabit level connectivity to rural areas, and Strategic Economic Corridors, a joint project with Midlands Connect to explore the feasibility of using a corridors approach around the A50/500 and A46 to support partner bids to Government.

Maintaining excellent relationships with decision-makers and influencers is critical to our advocacy role. Members of the Executive continue to meet with civil servants from DLUHC, DCMS, DfT and other Government Departments. The Chairman has met regularly with Government Ministers to promote and advocate for the region. This includes Marcus

Jones (Government Whip), Helen Whately (Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury), Anne-Marie Trevelyan (Secretary of State for International Trade) and Maggie Throup (Minister for Vaccines and Public Health). Forthcoming meetings are planned with Neil O'Brien (Minister for Levelling Up), George Freeman (Minister for Science, Research and Innovation), Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Lord Grimstone (Minister for Investment), Nadhim Zahawi (Secretary of State for Education) and Amanda Solloway (Government Whip). The Executive are currently liaising with partners on the key issues to raise at these meetings.

The Midlands Engine APPG continues to meet regularly and held a virtual meeting to discuss the Food sector on 22 March sector. This was co-chaired by Darren Henry, Conservative MP for Broxtowe and Lord Ravensdale, Crossbench Peer. The next meeting of the Midlands Engine APPG will be on 26 April and will be focused on Levelling Up, with Michael Gove (Secretary of State for Levelling Up) in attendance.

The forward plan of meetings for the Midlands Engine APPG is:

April	High Street Regeneration, chaired by Baroness Verma
May	Health, Dr Luke Evans MP for Bosworth / Lord Hunt of Kings Heath
June	Annual General Meeting
July	LA Leaders meeting, Lord Coaker
Sept	Transport, Lord Patrick McLoughlin
Oct	Green Growth, Lord Ravensdale and Darren Henry
Nov	Visitor Economy, Lord Taylor
Dec	Digital, Lord Coaker

APPG members have also indicated they would like to hold APPG meetings covering the following topics; Manufacturing, Rural and Agriculture and Research / Innovation. Notes from APPG meetings can be accessed by following this link: <https://midlandsengine.inparliament.uk/>

The Partnership has recently been informed by DWP that we have secured an extension to the Mental Health Productivity Pilot. This project has been operating for two and a half years undertaking novel research and developing and amplifying workplace mental wellbeing practice to address an established evidence gap in the relationship between workplace mental wellbeing and long-term impact on productivity. In January 2022 a submission was made to extend the project to continue the momentum of generating evidence and evaluating workplace mental wellbeing in the Midlands Engine region. The length of the extension is due to be confirmed shortly by DWP and will bring an additional circa £2.5-3.5m into the region.

## Action Plans

The Green Growth Action Plan was launched in July 2021. The Plan has proved helpful for clarifying the Engine's focus, convening partners around shared priorities and for discussions with Ministers. We are currently working with partners on a refresh of the document ahead of a September 'One Year On' where we will publicly report on progress.

Action Plans are now in development for our other key areas of operation (Digital, Health and Global & Investment). As set out below, we are working closely with our partners on these documents, which we expect to have completed by the start of the summer. The latest brochures detailing our work in these thematic areas are attached for information at Appendix B, alongside an overview of the Partnership's work.

The development of a consultation draft of the Digital Plan is being driven by Robert Franks of WM5G, on behalf of the Midlands Engine Partnership. Robert has prepared an initial set of propositions that identifies four key priority

areas where Midlands Engine intervention could deliver value add on top of existing partner activity (Connectivity, Digital Skills, Adoption, and Digital Poverty). These reflect the conclusions of the DCMS Regional Digital Ecosystems Report. For each priority area, the scope of the proposed intervention has been identified, along with its potential impact and a lead partner to drive delivery. The proposals were discussed by the Digital Strategy Board and Digital Steering Group at their joint meeting on 22 March. The next draft will be presented to the Digital Strategy Board on 26 May.

A consultation draft of the Global & Investment Plan has been prepared by the Midlands Engine team. This proposes that we can add value by promoting initiatives that build and maintain the global and investment infrastructure for partners across the Midlands, provide effective platforms from which partners can promote their investment priorities and that extend the global reach of the Midlands, and deliver a suite of high-profile, high-impact pan-regional global and investment projects, pilots and programmes that are strategically or pedagogically innovative, shape the policy agenda and enhance the reputation of partners and the Midlands. In the absence of an active oversight group of partners, individual meetings are being held, or are being arranged, with key players. This includes the West Midlands Combined Authority, West Midlands Growth Company, Worcestershire LEP, Greater Lincolnshire LEP, Midlands Innovation, Midlands Enterprise, Nottingham City Council, Birmingham City Council and the Department of International Trade. These meetings are due to be completed by in early May, and are due to be followed by wider stakeholder discussion, using existing groups where possible, focused on investment, trade, international visitor attraction and strategic economic corridors.

The consultation draft of the Health Action Plan is being prepared by the Midlands Engine team. This proposes a framework through which we can add value by developing and promoting the region's expertise and cluster strengths, better connect R&D with industry, improve the skills base and tackle health inequalities. The draft was shared and tested with the Health Strategy Board at its meeting on 20 April.

## **Budget and Governance**

**2022/23** - At time of drafting, DLUHC are yet to confirm the 2022/23 budget and whether there will be a three year settlement for the Engine. The Chairman is due to raise the issue at a meeting with Neil O'Brien, Levelling up Minister, on 20 April. A verbal update on this meeting will be provided at Exec Board.

**Governance Review** – A governance review is currently underway to ensure that the Midlands Engine's structure supports and enables our ability to deliver added value to our partners. Engagement with partners will be key to the process and is expected to continue through the summer.

**Annual Performance Review** – Midlands Engine is subject to an annual audit. This concluded that the Partnership has in place, the processes to ensure the proper administration of our financial affairs. The 2021/22 milestones agreed with DLUHC in our five thematic areas (Observatory, Voice, Green Growth, Global & Investment, Health, Digital) have all been completed or rescheduled, with the agreement of DLUHC. Further detail is set out in Appendix A. Milestones for 2022/23 are subject to final budget settlement. In future years it is envisaged that our Action Plans in these thematic areas will guide the choice of milestones in these areas.

## Appendix A – 2021/22 DLUHC Milestones

**Voice** – Work continues to grow and amplify the profile of the Midlands Engine partnership and specifically the work and achievements of our partners.

Voice: Milestone	Completed	In progress	Not yet underway
Up to 10 Midlands Matters newsletter publications – minimum of 5 to be published by November 2021	x		
Develop website, establish pan-regional communications and media working group and other comms activity, to be monitored through the quarterly monitoring reports by November 2021	x		

**Green Growth** - Mobilisation of the delivery of the [Ten Point Plan for Green Growth in the Midlands Engine](#) is well underway and the now established Midlands Engine Green Growth Board has responsibility for overseeing the coordination of the delivery of the Plan.

Green Growth: Milestone	Completed	In progress	Not yet underway
Relating to COP26: Hold a Midlands Engine event(s) ahead of COP26 (October 2021)	x		
Hold a Midlands Engine SME themed energy conversation linked to COP26 and a study visit following COP26 (November 2021)	x		
Develop a Green Growth inward investment prospectus – pan-Midlands (October 2021)	x		

**Strategic Economic Corridors** – Progress on this pan-regional project to identify and amplify regional growth opportunities is ongoing.

Strategic Economic Corridors: Milestone	Completed	In progress	Not yet underway
Confirmed governance in place, linked to Midlands Engine overarching governance, to include Midlands Connect. (April 2021)	x		
(Revised) Communications plan in place and immediate high-profile delivery of ‘early wins’ outputs/messaging - date on hold pending 2022/23 budget settlement	x		
Contemporary data on post-Covid patterns of movement (March 2022)	x		
High level corridors masterplan and implementation plan – articulating opportunities and early actions (March 2022)	x		

**International** – Following agreement with government, work continues to deliver on an agreed set of revised milestones.

International: Milestone	Completed	In progress	Not yet
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			underway
Co-ordinated plans of events for May 2021- Autumn 2021 (by end April 2021)	x		
(Revised) Development of comprehensive inward investment portfolio for the Midlands. Developed collaboratively with partners across the region and DIT. Includes new process for collation, partner validation and prioritisation. Portfolio will be enriched by Observatory data, sectoral and thematic analysis and presented via new digital assets. (March 2022)	x		
(Revised)Development of bespoke Midlands Engine datasets and information linked to the above portfolio, for identified inward investment priorities, market specific. (March 2022)	x		
(Revised)Universities as drivers of trade and investment proof-of-concept pilot phase 1 activity (co-funded by universities 1:1). This includes a scoping exercise to capture regional FDI in university R&D assets and opportunities, beginning a campaign design process, and activity that continues to showcase and advocate for the role Midlands universities can play in driving trade and investment (March 2022)	x		

**Midlands Engine Health** – With the commitment of the Health Board members, work continues to build the evidence base around high level priorities.

Midlands Engine Health: Milestone	Completed	In progress	Not yet underway
Bimonthly Board meetings	x		
Industry leaders events	x		
Development of bespoke Midlands Engine collateral for identified sectors – health, life sciences and medical technologies	x		
Advanced evidence base for interventions underpinning high level priorities (March 2022)	x		

**Midlands Engine Digital** - Work on the three themes for this workstream continues at pace made possible by the support of the Digital board members and partners.

Midlands Engine Digital: Milestone	Completed	In progress	Not yet underway
Bimonthly Board meetings	x		
Complete phase 1 map (April/May) and progress Phase 2 by March 2022	x		
Complete Midlands digital competitiveness study by September 2021	x		
Deliver pan regional partnership approach to prioritised barrier busting in partnership with DCMS	x		
Advanced evidence base for interventions underpinning high level priorities (March 2022)	x		

Establish and lead the Midlands Digital Strategy Board	x		
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**Midlands Engine Observatory** - Work to build and accelerate our evidence base continues, as we work to advance and increase engagement in Observatory products and activities.

Observatory: Milestone	Completed	In progress	Not yet underway
Agree expanded research programme for 21/22 <b>(by end April 2021)</b>	x		
10-12 no. C19 monitor - shared and published on Midlands Engine website by <b>March 2022 (min 5 published by November 2021)</b>	x		
Publish annual Midlands Engine State of the Region Report <b>(November 2021, with draft in September 2021 and approved by Executive Board in Oct 2021)</b>	x		
Completion of in-year research programme for 21/22 including publication of at least 12 distinct research pieces addressing regional research needs <b>(March 2022)</b>	x		

**Appendix B – Brochure Updates**



## **Midlands Digital Conference - Connecting ideas, delivering innovation, in partnership with HSBC UK**

The digital conference on 18 January was a virtual event which convened influential Midlands Engine partnership voices from business, academia and the public sector to explore how to successfully implement a digital connectivity strategy across a local authority area.

The morning session brought insights from Sir John Peace and Julia Lopez MP Minister of State at the Department for Digital, Media and Sport. This was followed by a Panel discussion chaired by Mark Stansfeld, WM5G and included: Matt Agar, DCMS; Heather Clark, City of Wolverhampton; Ceren Clulow, Nottinghamshire CC; Leigh Hunt, Regional Partnership Director, City Fibre and Kasam Hussain, Regional Partnership Director, Openreach. Rhys Enfield finished over the morning session by sharing insights from the Digital Connectivity map.

In the afternoon there were nine workshops, exploring everything from financing digital adoption to the transformational benefits and practicalities of new technologies.

## **Regional Economic Impact Monitor: Deep Dive on Digital**

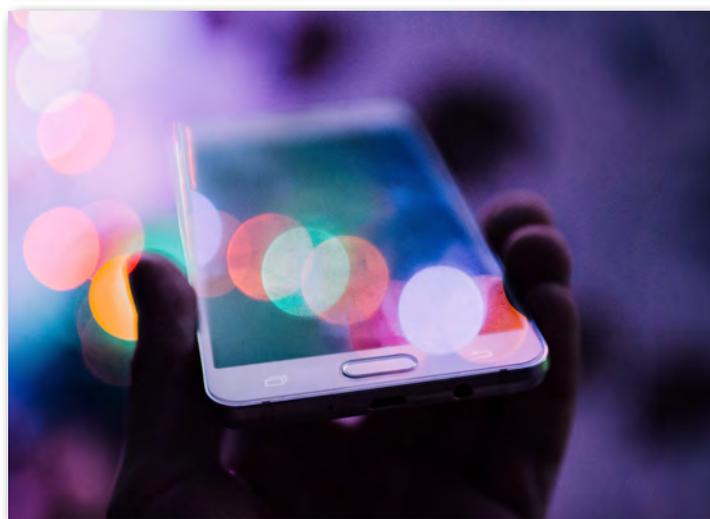
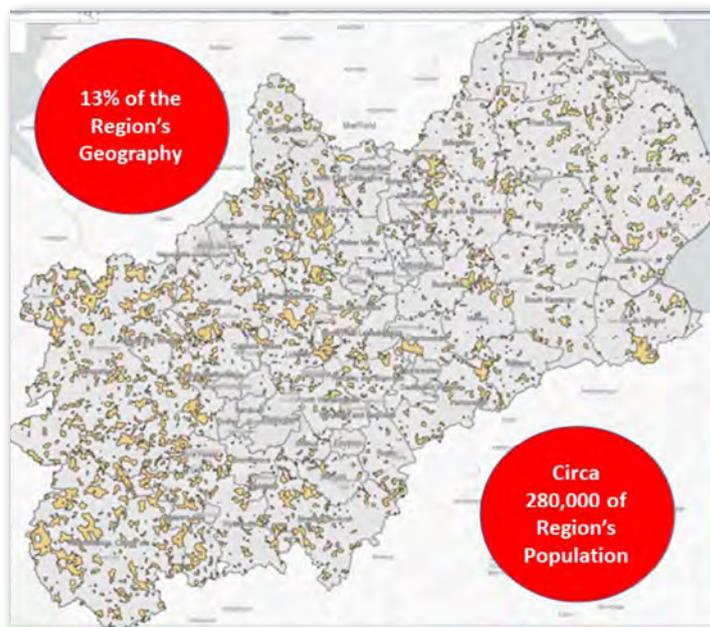
Digital is recognised as a critical enabler across all workstreams of the Midlands Engine partnership, reflecting its role as a key factor in the future success of the regional economy.

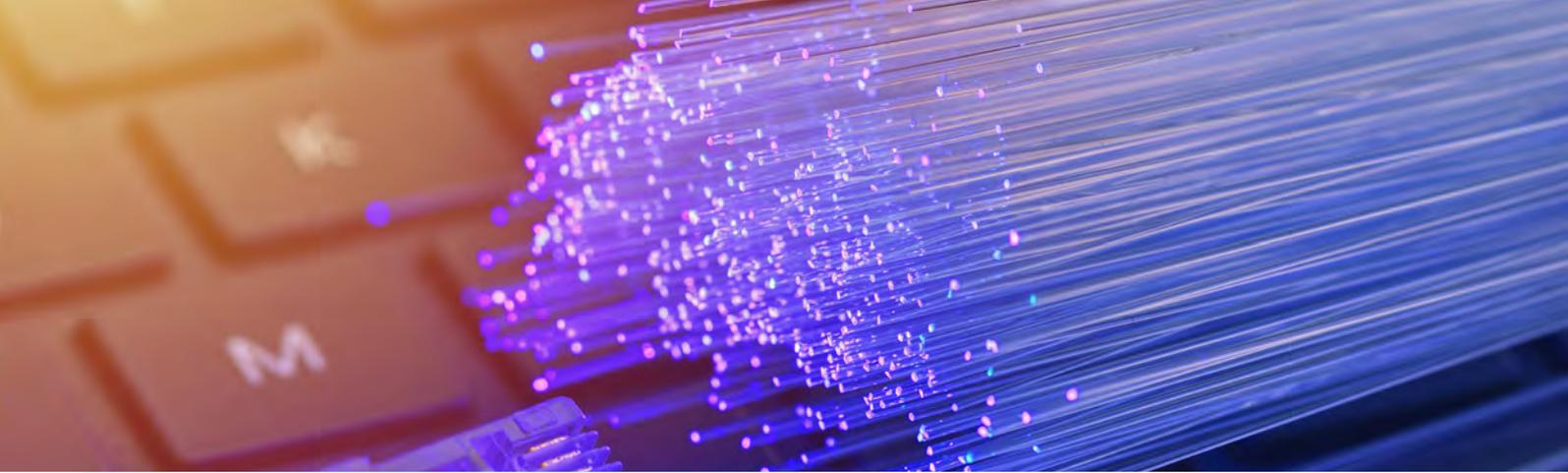
The deep dive is intended to stimulate debate and discussion on possible solutions or actions to take, support decision-making and drive momentum on the digital policy area. It is hoped that these discussions will building on existing work across the region and catalysing further collaboration within different sectors of the Midlands Engine economy.

## **Midlands Engine Digital Connected Map**

Our regional connected map, highlighting connectivity hot-spots and not-spots – and more, is being used by regional partners to provide evidence to senior leaders, partners and businesses on the status of infrastructure and the developments that are required to drive improvement.

The scale and power of the map can now be seen by accessing a video that demonstrates the huge potential that the map can offer. This can be accessed via this link '[Click here](#)'.





## Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator (DCIA)

The DCIA Pilot was an open competition, requiring submissions from Regional or Local Authorities, run by DCMS from HM Treasury's Shared Outcomes Fund and supported by DfT. DCIA will allocate up to £4 million of funding to pilots which support the implementation of digital asset management solutions for mapping and brokering of publicly owned assets for use in the rollout of wireless communication networks.

Two bids were submitted by the region, and a successful bid has been announced for WMCA. They will work with cross regional partners to ensure that the lessons learnt from this crucial piece of work are shared with partners as it progresses over the course of the year.

Potential outputs include:

- Testing the process required to digitise elements of the site acquisition process.
- Building evidence of whether the use of a digital asset management platform enables more efficient industry access to public sector assets.
- Assessing the potential commercial models and economic viability of running a digital asset management platform.
- Increasing expertise and reach an understanding of what resource is required to expedite telecommunications infrastructure deployment.
- Demonstrating the application of a digital asset management mapping platform across a diverse range of geographies and socio-economic profiles.
- Demonstrating that the platform has been tested with multiple asset types.

## GigaHubs

GigaHubs is one of the products BDUK is using to deliver the government ambition of gigabit capabilities across the UK by 2030. As part of the wider Project Gigabit, GigaHubs will use up to £110 million to connect public buildings such as rural schools, doctors' surgeries and libraries to gigabit broadband. This will help GPs provide remote video consultations and allow whole classes of schoolchildren to be online, at once, with no interruptions.

ME has been approached by DCMS to explore a regional approach to GigaHubs that will accelerate delivery and reduce the administrative burden to local areas.

BDUK has provided a list of 519 potential sites across the region, and the team are currently working with Councils to confirm the scope and scale of the project.

Nottinghamshire County Council have agreed to lead the procurement process on behalf of the partnership.





## H2 Twin Cities

(Ten Point Plan - Low Carbon Hydrogen)

The Midlands Engine were invited by BEIS to enter the HeroX global H2 Twin Cities competition. Working with our partner, the Energy Research Accelerator's, HyDEX project the region is submitting an application to twin with the South Korean region of Gyeongsangbuk. Our Executive Chairman has written a letter of support for the project and five-year commitment.



## Green Skills EOI

(Ten Point Plan - Energy Workforce & Low Carbon Hydrogen)

Our Observatory colleagues have been working with the Energy Workforce theme leads to create a green skills EOI to explore the necessities of a greener workforce with a particular focus on the energy sector and low carbon hydrogen technologies in supporting the long-term resilience of local economies against the impact of a move to net zero. This EOI has been shared with multiple stakeholders as a platform to synchronise and coordinate efforts to avoid duplication.

## Young People's Green Growth Assembly (YPGGA)

(Ten Point Plan: Action 9.1)

The YPGGA took place on 11 March 2022. The programme was completely designed and led by 24 young Green Growth Champions from the Midlands. They presented sessions on Nature's Recovery, Green Opportunities, and Clean Green Infrastructure and Places to our gathered audience of regional businesses, universities and public bodies. Following a challenge from the Champions, over 40 pledges were made, both personal and organisational, from the audience regarding what they will do to make a greener future possible in the Midlands.



## 'Midlands Forest'

(Ten Point Plan: Action 3.1)

In January our Executive Director and Green Growth Lead met with the National Lottery Heritage Fund to discuss the Midlands Forest vision. The vision is to replicate the National Forest's successful land use change model over the last 30 years to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits for the region. Next steps are a follow up site visit meeting in June with the National Forest, Woodland Trust and Observatory to discuss a development phase bid.



### Action Plan for Health in the Midlands

Work is underway on the drafting of an Action Plan for Health in the Midlands. Members of the Midlands Engine Health Board have been reviewing the key priorities for health and life sciences and collaborating on a plan for delivery.

### Blueprint for Diabetes in the Midlands

Following the completion of the Blueprint for Diabetes in the Midlands, work is now underway to disseminate the blueprint to selected audiences. The report sets out key actions and principles that will support the implementation of new approaches to tackle this condition and its effects.

Diabetes, which disproportionately affects people in the Midlands, is a major indicator -and driver- of health inequality. The goals of the Blueprint mirror those of the Levelling Up White Paper, particularly as they relate to health inequalities.

Staff from Novo Nordisk, Midlands Health Alliance and Midlands Engine Health are collaborating on the dissemination plans, which will include presentation to parliamentarians.



Our work with Novo Nordisk is an ongoing partnership

### Mental Health & Productivity Pilot

The external evaluation of the pilot has entered its second phase. Traverse Ltd, the external evaluator commissioned to complete the review, has been working with the project team to select the best method of gathering data. The researchers will shortly embark on a programme of in-depth interviews with 30 employers as part of a deep dive into the efficacy of the pilot.

### UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITY

#### Headline 1

The research team at the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) have completed their report into the health manufacturing sector. The work is currently being reviewed and will be published shortly.

#### Headline 2

The Health Board will meet in person in April to discuss the Action Plan for Health and plans for activities over the coming months.

#### Headline 3

The Medilink Innovation Day is scheduled for 12 May. The event will include conference activities and exhibition stands. This year will mark the first Medilink Midlands-wide Innovation Day following the successful merger of the East and West Midlands Medilink organisations.





## Midlands Investment Portfolio

The Midlands Engine is working with partners across the region to collate an investment portfolio for our region, which will include:

- Partners' priority capital investment opportunities
- Future FDI Clusters across the region
- Pan-regional sectoral strengths
- Opportunities that align with Green Growth, Digital, Health, Life Sciences and R&D

These will be presented as a high-quality digital asset on the Midlands Engine website, as a data set held by the Midlands Engine Observatory and be available to partners and government as an information resource for investor engagement opportunities. This will be completed by the end of March 2022, with a view to a launch in the first half of 2022.

Partners have now confirmed their 2022-23 priority investment opportunities for inclusion in the portfolio, and the website development is now underway. 80 sites have been nominated with most LEP areas submitting around a dozen priorities each. These include live opportunities, as well as a longer-term 'pipeline' of partner projects that across a 5-10 year time horizon. The portfolio presents over £26bn Gross Development Value of investment propositions which could generate over 150,000 jobs.

Work has begun on the cluster element of the portfolio, with over 65 economic clusters identified across the region, as declared by partners. The Midlands Engine is now consulting with partners to refine this list, which will form the basis of research with Beauhurst, Wavteq, Datacity and the CBI, looking at various data points from company growth, to regional skills and innovation hubs, as well as global investment trends, to identify emerging and growing economic clusters that have high potential to attract foreign direct investment both now and in the coming years. This evidence will be shared with partners and presented publicly on the new Midlands Investment Portfolio microsite, to support promotion efforts and showcase regional strengths.



## Midlands Engine Strategic Economic Corridors

Work has progressed with initial business roundtables to understand barriers to business growth within the corridors and articulate an offer to the private sector within the programme.

A summary report of work undertaken so far was produced for a meeting of government officials from across Whitehall in February, which was attended by representatives from DLUHC, BEIS, DCMS, DfT and DIT. Additional sources of information - including planned government economic regeneration investment and R&D assets - are being added to the Story Mapping resource.

A summary of the corridors programme is below:

*"Setting out the route to greater, faster and greener business growth across the Midlands' two strategic economic corridors."*

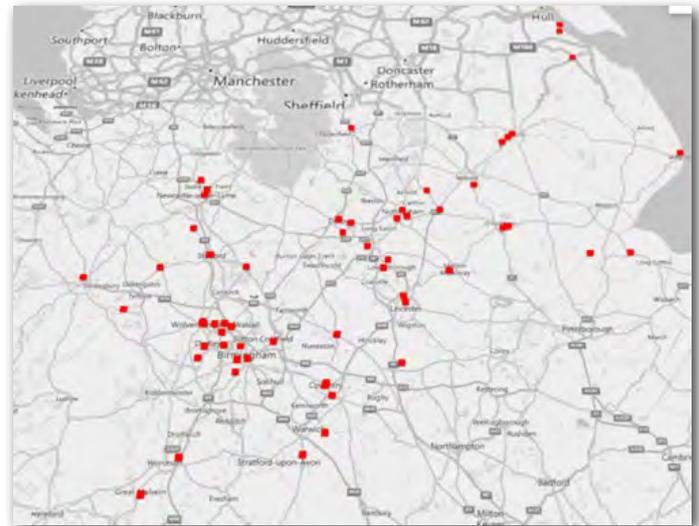
*"The partnership plan for our Corridors will show where and how aligned action and investment, across partners including the public sector and businesses, can unlock growth opportunities, faster and at scale. Underpinned by existing and planned transport infrastructure investments, the plan will showcase how a wider package of measures - from highlighting inward investment opportunities, realising green growth potential and accelerating digital connectivity, can boost businesses and clusters across the economic geographies of the A46 and A50/A500."*

*"The plan will set out an ambitious programme that will provide regional partners and Government with the data, insight and knowledge needed to pinpoint where the most effective interventions can be made. It will enable collective action and informed, line-of-sight decision making across the Corridors, as well as promoting the benefits of a pan-regional approach, driven by engaged local partners and businesses."*



### Next Steps to March 2022:

- Development of Global & Investment Action Plan
- Development and soft launch of Midlands Investment Portfolio website with partners
- Analysis of FDI potential of regional economic clusters with contemporary datasets
- Aggregation of regional research and development assets and development of university FDI proposition
- Partner engagement and consultation including partner co-investment / information provision and sharing / thought leadership
- Development of high-level Corridors plan and implementation plan (by Mar 22)

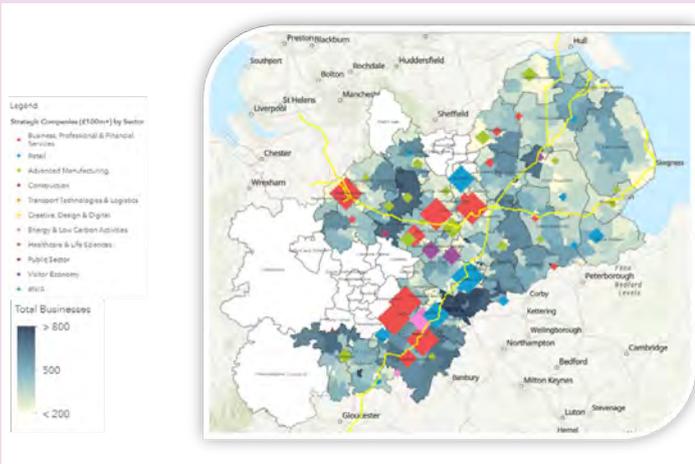


Portfolio priority site locations (February 2022)

### Universities as drivers of trade and investment

A pilot Executive group has now been established and is commissioning work. FDI into university R&D desk-based research of Midlands universities is now underway, along with statistical analysis of HESA data & mapping of regional assets. Deeper 'pathfinder' conversations are being conducted with seven universities to understand their institution's approach to FDI and what their priorities might be for a campaign. At the request of BEIS, we are now regularly meeting with the team developing the national policy framework in this area, ensuring that the experiences and perspective of our universities and partners are fed into that process. Elsewhere, the Careers and Employability Service at the University of Nottingham have been working with Careers Services across the Region to develop a detailed options proposal for a regional programme to fund graduate placements into SMEs to support trade and export. This was received well by the Midlands Engine Business Forum in March.

UUK International are convening a national policymaker conversation in March, helping shape the proposal ahead of taking it to government. We are working with the East Midlands LEPs to explore whether they might support a small subvention fund to create a portfolio of demonstrator projects from universities and local partners that leverage global alumni communities to support tangible outcomes for local international trade, investment and visitor economy.



Major businesses and key sectors mapped against Strategic Economic Corridors

### UK Real Estate & Infrastructure Investment Forum

The Midlands Engine will have a strong presence at the 'UK Real Estate and Infrastructure Investment Forum' (UKREIIF), to be held in Leeds from 17 to 19 May 2022. We are focusing activity on the Wednesday 18th May, which will include a Midlands Engine panel on the main stage featuring major investors in the region setting out why they chose the Midlands, and an early evening Midlands Engine reception which partners can use for targeted network ahead of later evening activity.



Alongside the publication of the January [Regional Economic Monitor](#) the Observatory produced and published our first deep dive monitor of 2022, [Brexit: One Year On](#), looked at the impact of the UK leaving the European Union a year ago. It identified issues that businesses have faced in the past year, particularly around trade and the labour market, and forthcoming opportunities and challenges in 2022 and beyond. The evidence suggests that Brexit exacerbated challenges for Midland's businesses and individuals.

The Observatory Programme Board, Research Partnership and Intelligence Community met in January to support the development of the upcoming Research Programme. From these workshop sessions, we have identified partners priorities for the next year: **Clusters, levelling up, green skills, digital skills, supply chain growth, and health & productivity.**

International Women's Day (8th March) saw the publication of research commissioned by the MEO on [Women in Leadership report](#), led by the University of Wolverhampton focusing on improving our understanding of the current state of gender diversity in leadership in the Midlands. The research drew on interviews with female employees and leaders from across the Midlands to identify barriers to greater representation of women in leadership in the region.. Women account for only 7.8% of executive directorships in the Midlands' top 350 companies compared to



13.7% in FTSE100 companies. Among the Midlands top 350 companies, 169 (48%) have exclusively male boards. The report findings were discussed at the **March Quarterly Economic Briefing**.

March saw the publication of Midlands Engine research into innovative methods of [Green Finance](#) and the Publication of the March **Midlands Engine Economic Impact Monitor** which included an analysis of the economic impact of the crisis in Ukraine on the Midlands Engine.

## Looking Ahead

### April 2022

- Publication of research 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.**
- Finalisation of **Observatory Action Plan** which outlines the upcoming priorities till 2025.
- Commissioning of in-depth research into the **green skills** required across the region, including into key sectors such as hydrogen.
- 29th - Publication of **April Midlands Engine Economic Impact Monitor.**
- Publication of research into the potential for the creation of a **Net Zero Carbon Ecosystem** across the Midlands Engine to accelerate the transition to net zero emissions.

### May 2022

- **Thematic Scorecards for each Midlands Engine theme** to be produced, allowing for tracking of achievements in these areas
- **Health Inequalities** supporting research for the Midlands Innovation Health Inequalities Commission.
- 27th - Publication of **May Midlands Engine Economic Impact Monitor.**

### June 2022

- **17th - Quarterly Economic Briefing** focusing on clusters and investment.
- 30th - Publication of **June Midlands Engine Economic Impact Monitor.**



### Communications campaign highlights

Three key events provided focal points for communications campaigns during this quarter: the Digital Conference, [Young People's Green Growth Assembly](#) and the Women in Business Leadership-themed QEB. The YPGGA and QEB in particular resulted in much wider engagement on our social channels, due largely to the quality of the photography and film content generated. Of particular note were the BBC East Midlands Today YPGGA coverage and the pre-recorded QEB interviews with influential women leaders: Edwina Dunn, Dunnhumby; Jeannie McGillivray, Midlands Engine Business Council,



CEO, Remote; Clare James, Midlands Engine Business Council, CEO, East Midlands Airport; Councillor Abi James, Midlands Engine Executive Board, Leader of Stoke-on-Trent City Council.



### Digital communications



A busy calendar and engagement with partners have provided a consistent flow of material for stakeholder engagement

on social media. The number of LinkedIn followers increased by 5.3% in the last month and search appearances were up by 55.4%. For Twitter, followers continued to increase and, importantly, visits to the Midlands Engine profile page increased by 76.5%, driven by strong social campaigns around the YPGGA and [Women in Business Leadership](#) report. Work continues to develop our website, with a focus this quarter on incorporating the Midlands Investment Portfolio.



### Publications

In February, we produced [Partnering for Prosperity](#) to highlight the purpose and impact of our pan-regional partnership - featuring partner and government voices, this was mailed to all Midlands MPs and key Ministers/Shadow Ministers. We also sent physical copies to key parliamentarians of our [Hydrogen Technologies Strategy](#) and a more detailed partnership impact publication setting out key partnership achievements in 2021. In response to a request from our APPG, we created a Midlands Engine Partnership Factsheet which will be available on the APPG website as well as our own channels. This is the first in a planned series which will cover all partnership and government priority areas.

### Voice to government

The new year brought a renewed focus on parliamentary engagement, with hard copies of strategies and reports offering an opportunity



to engage with targets across Westminster and to re-engage with supportive stakeholders. January's [focus on Digital](#) created good engagement with government: Digital Infrastructure Minister, Julia Lopez MP spoke at our conference, and Jane Hunt MP and Lord Coaker provided additional supportive comments. We have also strengthened our parliamentary briefings campaign, securing and supporting meetings for Sir John Peace and Rachael Greenwood with stakeholders from across partnership priority areas, including: the Home Secretary; the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Helen Whatley MP; Minister for Industry, Lee Rowley MP; Amanda Solloway MP and Marcus Jones MP in the Whips Office; and Minister for School Standards, Robin Walker MP.



# MIDLANDS ENGINE

## PARTNERING FOR PROSPERITY

FEBRUARY 2022

# DRIVING GROWTH AND PROSPERITY, RIGHT ACROSS THE MIDLANDS

PARTNERING FOR PROSPERITY: FEBRUARY 2022



"The Midlands has delivered so much for the UK. Our region is the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution; the largest regional economy outside London and home to almost 11 million people. But over time we have been consistently overlooked and undervalued - meaning our true economic potential is not being realised. The Midlands Engine partnership works to drive positive change and growth, aligning efforts and identifying opportunities to collaborate at scale for the greatest impact. If we are to level up - for the good of our region and our country - we must see concerted investment and long-term commitments from government, working in partnership with our region."

Sir John Peace, Chairman, Midlands Engine



"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

## MIDLANDS ENGINE

### OUR PARTNERSHIP MANDATE

Operate at scale across the Midlands geography

Identify, prioritise & capitalise on major economic opportunities

Grow the global footprint of the Midlands

The Midlands Engine is an influential pan-regional partnership, focused on operating at scale across the whole Midlands geography to tackle what really matters in our region. Together with our partners and government, we work to identify and capitalise on the major economic opportunities in our region. We stand in a unique space - connecting our region's businesses, parliamentarians, local authorities, academics and more, through our shared goal of greater prosperity - for every part of our region.

Our actions in partnership mean we are delivering real, measurable benefits for the communities we serve and in which we live. We are driving benefits in our economy too - because we view the big picture, convening, connecting and acting as a focal point to help drive economic growth.

In true collaboration, we identify and act on the opportunities which have best potential to enable economic growth, at pace. As our partnership continues to grow in strength and in scale, there is a genuine collective commitment to maximise our momentum as we support government ambitions to level up Midlands communities and our economy, for the greater benefit of our people, our places and our businesses.

# STRENGTH IN PARTNERSHIP

The strength of the Midlands Engine partnership is built on the insight, expertise and commitment of all of our partners. We bring together an extended network of collaborators from across business, local authorities, local enterprise partnerships, NHS trusts, public sector and charity bodies and universities. Here is a snapshot of just a few of the many organisations in our partnership; partners we connect with, collaborate with and who invest together with us, in our region, to achieve our shared aims for regional success.



PARTNERING FOR PROSPERITY: FEBRUARY 2022

### WAYS OF WORKING

**Advocacy** - working for our region, with Government

**Influencing** - shaping policy and investment to benefit our region

**Convening** - driving change through collective action in partnership

### PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY THEMES

**GREEN GROWTH**  
Powering our net zero future

**DIGITAL**  
Accelerating connectivity

**TRANSPORT**  
Investing in transport for growth

**GLOBAL & INVESTMENT**  
Extending our international reach

**HEALTH**  
Pioneering in health and life sciences

**OBSERVATORY**  
Evidence and Intelligence



"The Midlands Engine APPG plays a crucial cross-party role in supporting economic growth in the Midlands - working together with the Midlands Engine partnership. This group provides a forum for Midlands MPs and peers to receive crucial data and analysis of the economic performance of our 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



"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

# IMPACT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP - KEY MILESTONES

Working together in partnership, we achieve the greatest impact and bring benefit to every part of the Midlands Engine.

## 2020

### Supporting workplace wellbeing & increasing productivity

Mental Health & Productivity Pilot enters second year



### Unlocking new era of green growth to supercharge the economy

East Midlands Development Corporation business case made



### Mobilising our regional parliamentary voice

Midlands Engine APPG established



### Evidencing regional opportunities & barriers to growth

First ever Midlands Engine Independent Economic Review published



### Showcasing £17.6bn exceptional investment opportunities to the world

Midlands UK Forum for Growth convened



### Championing our world-leading strengths in health & life sciences

Midlands Engine Health partnership established



## 2021

### Celebrating a £26 billion regional sector strength

First ever Midlands Health & Life Sciences Symposium convened



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

Digital connected map published and deployed



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

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



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

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



### Harnessing private sector leadership across the Midlands

Midlands Engine Business Council launched



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

Natural Capital Story Map published during COP26 for partner use



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

Scale of partner investment and collaboration commitments increase



### Collaborating to tackle regional & national health inequalities

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



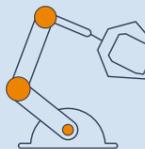
### Crystallising & championing our region's pivotal role in low carbon hydrogen

Midlands Engine Hydrogen Technologies Strategy published, led by industry partners



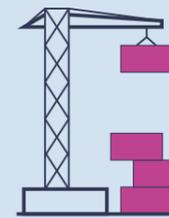
### Championing world-leading manufacturing capabilities, innovation and potential

Midlands Engine Makes & Manufacturing Opportunities reports published



### Advocating for international trading hubs in our region

Partner success as Humber & East Midlands Freeports announced



## and in 2022 we are...

### Championing regional digital capability & innovation

Partners assemble for Midlands Engine Digital Conference



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

Young People's Green Growth Assembly



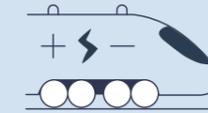
### Accelerating gigabit connectivity in our region

Advancing the first regional Gigahubs programme in the UK



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

Midlands Connect Strategic Plan



### Showcasing innovation and leadership for wellbeing and productivity

Second Midlands Health Life Sciences Symposium



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

Partners celebrate achievements at Green Growth Conference



### Enabling greater targeting of investment & interventions

Delivering a comprehensive Midlands Engine Research Portfolio through our Observatory



### Accelerating pan-regional growth & investment

A sustained focus on strategic corridors A50/500 and A46



### Driving positive impact for our partnership and region

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



### Highlighting priority capital investment opportunities for the Midlands

Midlands Engine Investment Portfolio spotlights partner-led investment opportunities



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

Driving innovation in the Green Finance landscape at our Summit



... AND MUCH MORE ACTIVITY & IMPACT, IN PARTNERSHIP



# LEVELLING UP THE MIDLANDS ENGINE

## Seizing the moment

The Midlands Engine's founding principles speak to the power of partnership. Working together across the public and private sectors, we work at scale, unlocking economic growth that will bring benefits to every part of our region, and tackling challenges that are too big to be addressed alone.

We create and convene environments where public sector partners and businesses can collaborate and coordinate action, guided by a shared evidence base built by our Observatory. Through our work we have demonstrated the importance of a place perspective in helping to secure aligned, accelerated investment and in shaping and delivering regionally relevant government policy.

The Levelling Up White Paper puts narrowing spatial economic disparities at the centre of every government department's priorities. It shows commitment to 'system change,' recognising that this mission will only be delivered through a cross-government and cross-society effort that is open to new ways of working. **We're proud trailblazers of this approach and relish the challenge to work alongside our partners to go further.**

This injection of momentum is an opportunity to seize the moment - to secure and accelerate our growth ambitions for every part of the Midlands, to the benefit of businesses, our economy and the UK. **We can only do it together.**

**£82 billion**  
Significant and growing  
**PRODUCTIVITY**



### Sector strengths

- ✓ Manufacturing & food
- ✓ Health & life sciences
- ✓ Green growth & energy
- ✓ Financial & professional services



**11 million**  
diverse population,  
more people than  
Scotland, Wales &  
N. Ireland combined

**£246 billion**  
**economy**  
contributing  
significantly to the UK

## IN PARTNERSHIP, WE...

**champion our region...**  
Our unified voice raises our regional profile and showcases our many strengths, across the UK and internationally.

**achieve more through strong links with our region's dynamic businesses...**  
Our work with major multinational businesses, an innovative community of SMEs and the Midlands Engine Business Council embeds the voice of industry in our work.

**convene regional champions who activate opportunity - at scale and with pace...**  
Spanning the entire Midlands geography, we work across sectors and organisational boundaries in true pan-regional collaboration, adding value.

**have built a regional Observatory to support regional policy shaping and decision making...**  
Unique in England, our Observatory is a collaboration of top regional academics and researchers, working to maintain a robust, up-to-the-minute and interactive Midlands evidence base that will be crucial as we measure levelling up progress.

# REGIONAL COLLABORATION IN ACTION

## 300 regional organisations collaborate to drive green growth

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.



## Regional investment could deliver 360k jobs

Working with partners, we have developed an exceptional Midlands Investment Portfolio, setting out partner priority capital investment opportunities, highlighting future FDI 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 April 2022 and available through the Midlands Engine website. Showcasing a pipeline of over 170 inward investment opportunities and representing over £40.2bn GDV, securing this investment has the potential to deliver over 360,000 Midlands jobs.



## The UK's most comprehensive digital connected map



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.

## Symposium to drive growth in £26bn health & life sciences sector



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 Engine has long been a powerhouse of making - from food to tech, from textiles to aerospace. Manufacturing

growth is a powerful route to levelling up. But to grow, our firms must be able to access a skilled workforce, digital connectivity and the finance they need.

**Charlotte Horobin, Region Director, Make UK & Midlands Engine Business Forum**



"Our region has a vast wealth of academic excellence located in our world leading universities and complemented by a strong and varied infrastructure of further education organisations.

Our extensive work in partnership with our region's businesses recognises the central roles that research, innovation and skills play in growing the economy and strengthening the cultural and social fabric of all the communities within our region."

**Professor Edward Peck, CBE, Vice Chancellor and President, Nottingham Trent University & Midlands Engine Executive Board**



"Our partnership connects collective capability from the private, public and academic 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**



"It's through collective steps that we can improve lives within our region's communities, and help grow our region's businesses. The Midlands Engine partnership's goal is prosperity for every part of the Midlands.

By collaborating across the public and private sectors, working together with all Midlands MPs, we are making sure the Midlands voice is heard, so that our region can prosper."

**Preet Gill, MP for Edgbaston, Shadow Secretary of State for International Development Co-Vice Chair, Levelling Up - City of Birmingham APPG**

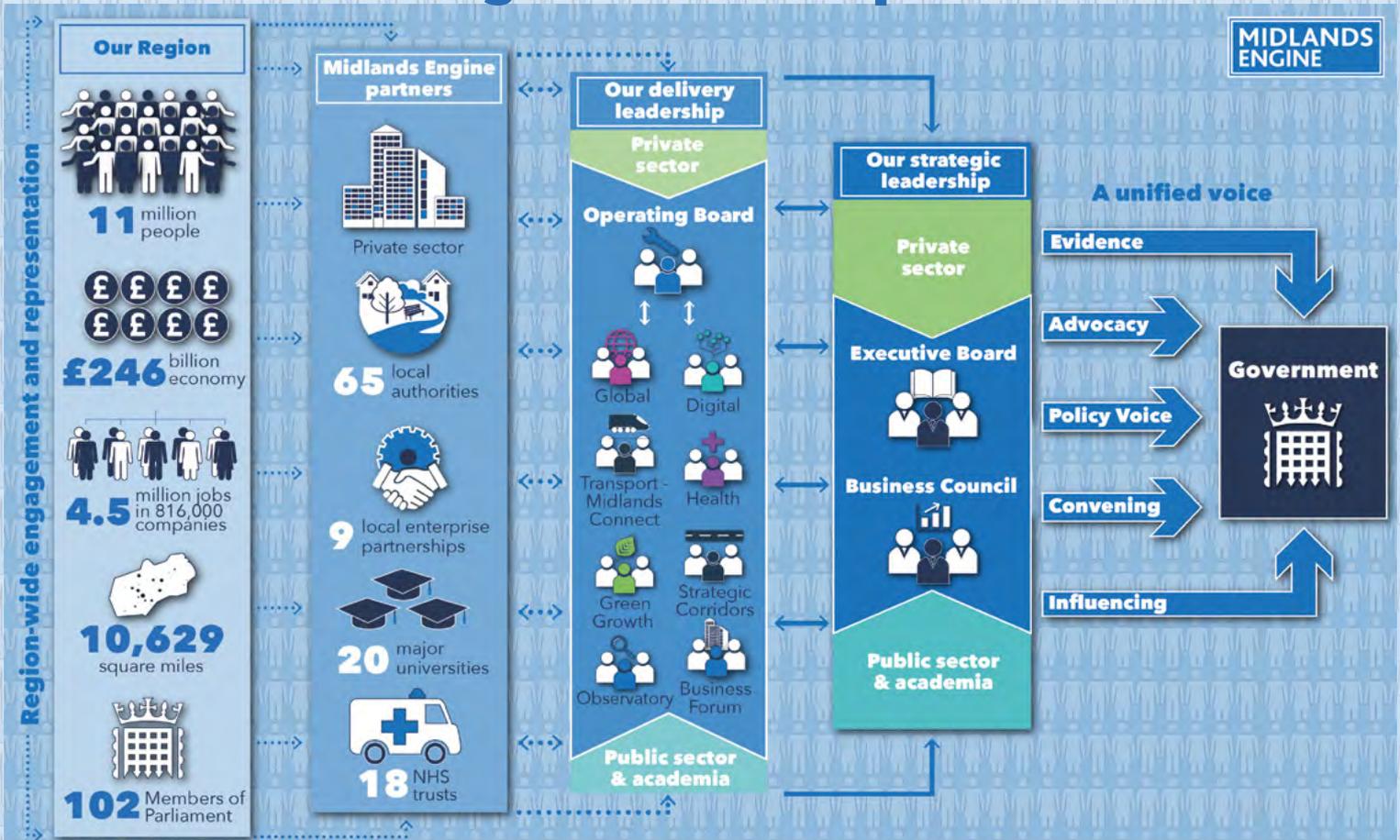


"The Midlands is home to one sixth of the UK population, more than Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland combined, and delivers an economic output of £246bn - significant strategic importance within the UK.

Our location, right at the heart of the nation, is within just 4 hours reach of more than 90% of the UK population."

**Dr Luke Evans, MP for Hinckley & Bosworth, Midlands Engine APPG, Chair of Health sub-group**

# 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 Councils, Combined Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP), 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. Copyright © 2022 The Midlands Engine, All rights reserved.

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