

### May to June 2022 Highlights

The **26th edition** (May 2022) of the **Regional Economic Impact Monitor** was published, covering the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and also highlighting how the Midlands region is under threat of being left behind from Levelling Up. The monitor also provided analysis of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the funding gap for the region, plus the latest statistics for business innovation and digital connectivity.

The Observatory produced two factsheets for the Midlands Engine focusing on **Town and Cities Regeneration and Health** within the region.

The quarterly meetings of the **Midlands Engine Intelligence Community** (12 May) and **Research Partnership** (19 May) took place. The **Intelligence Community** focused on East Midlands LSIP Trailblazer, a presentation by Starcount, a showcase of the Midlands Engine clusters research and identification work, and finally discussion on Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity indicators. The **Research Partnership** included presentations on recent ESRC productivity funding awards from universities within the region who have secured over £6m for research into access to finance, mental health and well-being, and servitisation.

Two interns from the University of Birmingham have joined the Observatory team over the summer and will be supporting our research into green and digital skills in the region, including an opportunity to define what green skills really are.

In June 2022, the **Quarterly Economic Briefing** (17 June) focused on investment - opportunities and challenges for the Midlands. It was attended by over 50 partners and involved a panel discussion with key partners including Nigel Driffield, Professor of International Business, Warwick Business School, Bek Seeley, Managing Director, Lendlease, and Lydia Rusling, Assistant Director for Economic Growth, South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

A **deep dive edition** (June 2022) of the **Regional Economic Impact Monitor** was published focusing on global and investment including trade in goods and services, business, foreign direct investment, higher

education and tourism, all alongside the **Midlands Engine investment scorecard**.

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### Looking Ahead - July to August 2022

- Commissioning deep dive research into **smart energy** including development a comprehensive definition of smart energy and a forward-looking vision and potential impact for the Midlands region.
- In partnership with Hydrex the commissioning of an end-to-end deep dive of the skills, qualifications and training required by **hydrogen technologies** to enable the transition to net zero
- Publication of the **July edition of the Regional Economic Impact Monitor**.
- **Midlands Engine Intelligence Community (8 July) Research Partnership (14 July) and MEO Programme Board (19 July) meetings**
- Presentation of **Thematic Scorecards** which allows for tracking of achievements in key theme areas to MEO Programme Board.



*Clockwise from top left, we have, Nigel Driffield, Professor of International Business, Warwick Business School, Bek Seeley Managing Director, Lendlease, Lydia Rusling, Assistant Director for Economic Growth, South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership and Roger Mendonça, Director of Delivery, Midlands Engine*