



July to August 2022 Highlights

The **29th edition** (July 2022) of the **Regional Economic Impact Monitor**. This edition of the monitor follows on from a period of continued challenges - both short-term and long term, covering topics such as the economy, society and environment of the region.

The Observatory produced a factsheet for the Midlands Engine focusing on **Visitor Economy**.

The quarterly meetings of the **Midlands Engine Intelligence Community** (6th July) and **Research Partnership** (14th July) took place. The Intelligence Community welcomed a presentation from ONS on the new **ONS Local** service and a presentation from the **Midlands Evaluation Network**. We also shared findings from the **DataCity Tool** which provide Real Time Industrial Classification data. The Research Partnership received presentations from Professor Nigel Driffield on the work of **the Productivity Institute** and Professor Andrew Leyshon updated on the Observatory latest thought leadership piece - **From pandemic to endemic: Covid-19 in retrospect and prospect in the Midlands Engine**.

Following the July (19th) meeting of the MEO **Programme Board** we published the **Midlands Engine Observatory Action Plan**.

Two interns from the University of Birmingham have joined the Observatory team over the summer and have been supporting the Observatory around research into **green and digital skills in the region**, this includes the opportunity of defining what green skills really are.

Supporting the work of the Partnership the **University of Birmingham and Siemens Consulting** are working on a 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.

Looking Ahead - Sept. to October 2022

- 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 **September edition of the Regional Economic Impact Monitor**.
- 16th September **QEB** focusing on green investment with presentations from Green Finance Institute and UK Infrastructure Bank.
- **Food Sector Report** in partnership with **Food Alliance** showcasing the sectors strengths and opportunities.
- Continuing training, development and redevelopment of the **ME Intelligence Hub**
- **State of Region 2023**.
- Full suite of **factsheets** including **SME, Nuclear, Hydrogen, Green, Transport and Digital**.