

### September to October 2022 Highlights

The **31st edition** (October 2022) of the [Regional Economic Impact Monitor](#) was published. This edition of the monitor continues to highlight economic challenges faced by many in the Midlands, alongside latest trends in the labour market and the business environment.

The Observatory produced a range of factsheet for the Midlands Engine focusing on [SMEs, Manufacturing, West Burton Fusion, Global and Investment, Nuclear, Digital, Hydrogen, Green Growth](#), and [Transport](#).

The successful Quarterly **Economic Briefing (12th October)** took place focusing on Green Investment. This included keynote presentations from the **Green Finance Institute** and **UK Infrastructure Bank**, followed by a panel discussion which discussed the barriers and opportunities for the Midlands.

We also published the latest thought leadership piece - [From pandemic to endemic: Covid-19 in retrospect and prospect in the Midlands Engine](#) - developed through our partnership with the **University of Nottingham**. The report is an exploration of how the region's organisations navigated the pandemic stage of the crisis and how they have prepared for living with Covid-19 as an endemic disease. The objective was to support organisations to integrate response structures, behaviours, and levels of resilience into their activities that would support effective endemic disease management.

The [Food Sector Report](#) in partnership with the Food Alliance showcasing sector strengths and opportunities was also published.

The [ME Intelligence Hub](#) has been rebranded and launched. Continued development of the site includes easy of navigation and a greatly improved customer journey. Moving forward, the team will explore options to expand the granularity of available data and the inclusion of raw statistics.

We will shortly be publishing the outcomes of key piece of work we have undertaken in partnership with the **University of Birmingham** and **Siemens Consulting** 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 - November to December 2022

- Through our research partnership we are working with **Aston University** on a deep dive to understand **trade performance across the Midlands Engine** which will be reporting in December.
- In partnership with **Hydex** we are 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 **November edition of the Regional Economic Impact Monitor**.
- 13th December in person **QEB** focusing on the **Annual State of the Region report** which will serve as a launch event, with presentations and panellists from key Midlands organisations and firms including **HSBC, Deloitte, SmartParc, the University of Birmingham** and **MakeUK**.
- Development of our **data policy asks** in conjunction with partners.