

**MIDLANDS
ENGINE**

**Delivering our
Vision for Growth**



A PARTNERSHIP WITH A VISION FOR GROWTH

“Our core purpose is to create a Midlands Engine that powers the UK economy and competes on the world stage. Our strategic location, strong sense of identity and reputation as the beating heart of the national economy will ensure the UK's future as a global economic power.”

In 2017, our Vision for Growth set out the priority areas where the Midlands Engine will collaborate and drive growth:

- Connectivity
- Trade and Investment
- Innovation and Enterprise
- Skills
- Shaping Great Places

Our ambition is to grow the Midlands and UK economies by £54 billion by 2030, making the Midlands an even better place to live, work, study and do business. Through raising productivity and creating a stronger economy, we aim to achieve a fairer society, improving skills, better access to housing and a greater quality of life for all Midlanders.

This year, we are translating the vision into action.



POWERING UK GROWTH

“The next twelve months are a vital period for the country and the Midlands. We require strong civic and business leadership to back long-term growth across the Midlands, securing benefits from HS2 and the Commonwealth Games, and unlocking business potential and access to international markets.

The UK is changing. Growth is increasingly driven by regions, with the Midlands growing faster than the national rate. Our £220 billion economy is already home to cutting-edge research facilities and world-renowned brands across a broad spectrum of sectors. With record levels of investment and exports,

AN ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP

- As Local and Combined Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Universities and businesses, we are working together in new and transformative ways
- Attracting investment, supporting business growth, promoting our strengths internationally, drawing together innovation, and working on infrastructure projects
- Speaking with one voice on behalf of a region of over 10 million people and 800,000 business enterprises

NEW MODELS OF COLLABORATION

- **West Midlands Combined Authority** - 18 Local Authorities, 4 Local Enterprise Partnerships, with 2 devolution deals. A housing and skills deal and the country's first Local Industrial Strategy
- **Constellation Partnership** - 7 Local Authorities and 2 Local Enterprise Partnerships, centred on 3 HS2 transport hubs
- **East Midlands** – an emerging ambition to form a strategic alliance to strengthen partnerships and drive growth, particularly around the Toton HS2 station
- **Internationally through Midlands UK** – the public and private sectors representing the Midlands Engine at MIPIM with a £11 billion property investment portfolio

we are creating jobs and building an economy that benefits not only the Midlands but UK plc.

But we can do much more. Working in partnership with Government we are driving forward our shared ambitious plans to fire up the Midlands as an Engine for growth in the UK. Together, we can unlock our potential, rebuilding our towns, cities and rural economies so that all are contributing to improving opportunities and quality of life across the region - building an economy that works for everyone.”

Sir John Peace
Chairman, Midlands Engine

A PROGRAMME FOR DELIVERY

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED IN 2017-18

We have been powering ahead in our first full year of operation, bringing real benefits for businesses and people across the Midlands.

- We established the £250 million Midlands Engine Investment Fund enhanced by the £370 million Barclays Midlands Growth Fund
- We had our highest number of foreign direct investment projects in the past decade - 243 projects, resulting in 13,138 new jobs
- The value of exports in the Midlands rose from £47 billion in 2016 to over £55 billion in 2017, the biggest rise of any UK area
- 14 international trade missions and visits since February 2017, showcasing the Midlands on a global stage
- Midlands Connect has set out a 25-year strategy to help “Power the Midlands Engine” by improving rail and road connectivity across the Midlands
- The Midlands Rail Hub project sets out cost-effective opportunities to improve East-West connectivity
- Midlands Connect has helped define the Major Road Network Investment strategy and ensure HS2 is accessible for the entire region
- Worcestershire 5G Consortium successfully bid for Government funding to test and explore 5G connectivity
- We were awarded an East Midlands Manufacturing Zone pilot

- Collaboration with the Department for Education to deliver English for speakers of other languages pilot (ESOL) innovation fund across the Midlands
- Collaboration with the Department for Health on a mental health pilot to maintain productivity in the workforce
- We established the Midlands Economic Observatory



MIDLANDS ENGINE CURRENT PROGRAMME

We have a diverse range of proposals with some ready to deliver over the next year and others offering longer-term opportunities.

INTERNATIONALISATION: We are developing a new Internationalisation Strategy for the Midlands to increase exports and encourage further investment into the region. It includes plans for a new Subvention Fund, which will encourage business tourism into the Midlands and a Great Exhibition centred on the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

INNOVATION: We are supporting the Midlands economy by encouraging innovation, exploiting our existing strengths and developing new expertise. We want to enhance our sector strengths in:

- **Life sciences** through a new Med-tech Innovation Accelerator with a first phase in Nottingham and subsequent phases across the Midlands
- **Space** through a new satellite manufacturing facility in Leicestershire which will provide low-cost access to space (LOCAS)
- **Advanced Ceramics** through a new innovation park in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire
- **Food** through a new Food Automation Centre at Holbeach in Lincolnshire linked to Smart technologies.

Midlands' businesses are working on a project called CITEC (Cross-Industry Technology Exploitation in Clusters) that takes **technology** from one area and uses it in another. For example, the use of technology that protects Formula One drivers in the

event of a crash, is also being used to create a safe environment for new-born babies needing emergency transportation.

TRANSPORT & CONNECTIVITY: We are supporting Midlands Connect in the development of their strategic transport priorities, including improvements to the Midlands Motorway hub and a corridor approach to upgrading the A46, A5, and A50/A500; as well as improving passenger and freight connectivity through the Midlands Rail Hub, a review of the Derby-Stoke-Crewe line, and accelerating the opening of the East Midlands Hub station at Toton.

DIGITAL: We are developing our plans for a Midlands-wide Digital Strategy that will support productivity and growth for all our businesses across both urban and rural areas.

SHAPING GREAT PLACES: We are developing a Midlands wide tourism strategy and cultural offer, promoting the Midlands as a great place to live. We are also developing ideas for enabling faster delivery of planned new homes.

SKILLS AND PRODUCTIVITY: We want to develop a package squarely aimed at improving productivity and management capabilities for leadership in companies across the whole Midlands and to create a Midlands Collaborative Skills Network, as well as extend the pilot **Supply Chain Initiative** so that it provides a cross-sector approach to measuring and improving supply chain companies' performance.

Our programme aims to add over **£54 billion** to the economy, create around **one million new jobs**, one million apprenticeships, and enable over **600,000 new homes**.



For more details on our programme contact us:

www.midlandsengine.org info@midlandsengine.org [@midsengine](https://twitter.com/midsengine)