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MIDLANDS MATTERS - ISSUE 11



Welcome to Issue 11 of Midlands Matters, our Partnership newsletter.

Spring is a time of renewal and as we take our first tentative steps out of lockdown the sense of a country revitalised is palpable. There is hope too, fuelled by the hugely successful vaccination programme, amongst our businesses who are regaining their optimism about the future and the belief that our economy will bounce back, better, greener and stronger than before.

March has seen our partnership at the forefront of national recovery plans as the levelling up agenda begins to be felt on the ground. There is no better example of this than the recent Budget Statement which was full of good news for the Midlands.

First, our region's two Freeport bids at East Midlands Airport and at the Humber Ports were

both successful. These twin Freeport sites, joined by our A46 strategic corridor, will play a key role in driving our economic potential, addressing skills and productivity gaps, and enhancing our position as a global gateway for the UK.

The Budget also brought us further successes in the form of the Towns Fund bids from locations right across our region, testament to the hard work of our partners to create this groundswell of confidence in the Midlands.

The Chancellor himself joined the latest meeting of our Midlands Engine Business Council to discuss what the Budget meant for our region's businesses with myself, the Secretary of State and Midlands Engine Ministerial Champion Robert Jenrick MP and thirty of our region's leading entrepreneurs and industry leaders. The meeting was an excellent opportunity to highlight to the Chancellor the abundant economic strengths our region possesses in addition to our vast potential for growth, fuelling and accelerating the national economic recovery from the pandemic.

Another vote of confidence in our region came in the form of twin decisions by two Government departments to make the Midlands the home of their second headquarters as well as the news that the BBC will be relocating some of their programming and staff to Birmingham. Moves such as these are early and positive signals of the Government's commitment to the levelling up agenda for our region.

Midlands Engine Health, since its inception late last year, has become a cornerstone of our activity at Midlands Engine. Over the next several weeks we will be publishing reports on a variety of health-related topics; the first of which, on our region's historic strengths around Medical Technologies, you can read by clicking on the story below. I'm particularly proud of our forthcoming report on Health Diversity leadership in the Midlands, due to be released on World Health Day which this year focuses on building a fairer, healthier world for everyone.

I would like to wish you a very happy Easter and I look forward to continuing to work with you

towards our shared priority of levelling up the Midlands economy and building an even more prosperous Midlands for all our communities.

With my best wishes,

Sir John Peace, Chairman, Midlands Engine



Business Council puts our region firmly on the UK Treasury's map

Around 30 business leaders from across our region heard from Chancellor Rishi Sunak on what the recent Budget means for Midlands businesses.

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East Midlands Development Corporation submits business case to Government

Chairman Sir John Peace says the East Midlands Development Corporation project could "transform the economy of an entire region" supporting 84,000 jobs and providing £4.8bn to the local economy.

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Midlands Engine celebrates two Freeports

The new Freeports at East Midlands Airport and Immingham will be key in creating jobs and making it easier and cheaper to do business.

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Industry leaders shape first steps towards Midlands Engine Hydrogen Technologies Strategy

Partners from across our region met to discuss ways of growing a sector that could be worth £18.2bn to the UK by 2035.

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Wolverhampton to host MHCLG's second HQ in historic move

This key milestone for the levelling up agenda will bring 500 jobs to our region by 2025.

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Midlands Engine Health: Focus on MedTech

From the MRI to Ibuprofen, the Midlands has always been a centre of excellence for MedTech and is now worth £1.6bn annually & supports 23,600 jobs. Our latest report showcases why MedTech is such a strength in the Midlands.

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MORE NEWS FROM THE MIDLANDS

Birmingham 2022 to be the world's first carbon-neutral Commonwealth Games

Severn Trent becomes Birmingham 2022's Official Nature & Carbon Neutral Supporter and aims to leave a positive social and environmental legacy.

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AI training boost for next generation of plant scientists

Students at the Universities of Nottingham and Lincoln will benefit from training in the use of artificial intelligence to measure the structure and function of plants.

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BBC's Asian Network and Newsbeat to move to Birmingham

The relocation comes as the broadcaster plans to move key departments and staff out of London and will include new entertainment and drama series to be made in the Midlands.

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Coventry 2021 unveils programme highlights as lockdown eases

The events will begin in May with Coventry Moves with other events such as Home Sessions and arts activism festival CVX also planned.

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Air & Space Training Institute launches in Newark

The new facility will allow school-leavers to apply for pilot, engineering and ground-crew courses starting in September.

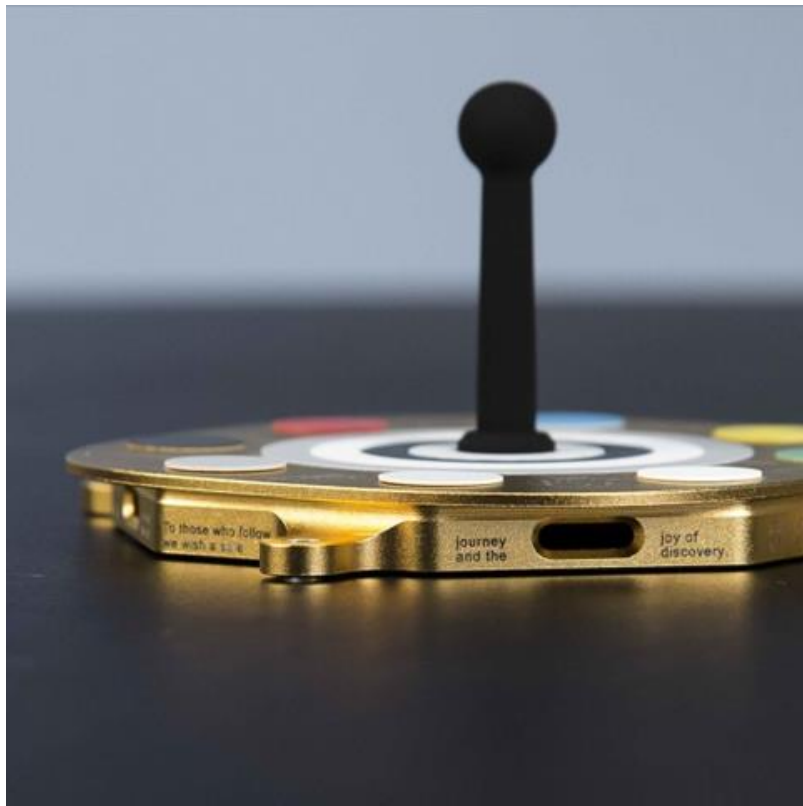
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Device made in Stoke-on-Trent adds colour to Mars mission

Technology built in the Midlands ensures that the colours captured by the Perseverance mission to Mars are recorded with pinpoint accuracy.

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