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## MIDLANDS MATTERS - ISSUE 13



### Welcome to Issue 13 of Midlands Matters, our Partnership newsletter.

As we move through Government's roadmap out of lockdown, all around us we can see an economy moving to embrace the long-awaited recovery.

In yesterday's Queen's Speech, we quite rightly saw a major focus on levelling up the regions - and we know that achieving a fairer economy brings a valuable prize. Data from our Midlands Engine Observatory shows a regional GVA gap – and *just by closing that gap*, the Midlands economy could generate an extra £76 billion each year for our country.

As discussed at the latest Midlands Engine Quarterly Economic Briefing, our region is now growing and showing fresh vigour: Goldman Sachs

is moving to Birmingham; the world's oldest modern factory in Derby has been transformed into the Museum of Making, ready to welcome its first visitors this month; and the reimagined Nottingham Castle will follow suit in June.

Later this month business leaders from our region will join us to discuss the future at the Invest Midlands conference. This event follows on from our Midlands UK Forum for Growth, held last November, which showcased over £17.6 billion worth of exceptional investment opportunities across our region.

Throughout the pandemic, our universities have produced world-class research in areas that will help us unlock the potential of our economy as we return to growth - whilst Midlands Engine Health continues to showcase our region's strengths in Health and Life sciences. Our latest report on specialist rehabilitation services, an area in which the Midlands is leading, highlights one of many areas where our region makes a vital contribution to the health of the nation.

We're delighted to welcome Professor Trevor McMillian who has succeeded Professor Alec Cameron as Chair of Midlands Innovation Universities and Anne Boyd as the new Chief Executive of the Stoke and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, succeeding Mark Parkinson. I look forward to working with Professor McMillian and Anne in the months ahead in our shared pursuit of an ever more prosperous region.

Rachael Greenwood, Executive Director, Midlands Engine



## **Midlands Engine welcomes focus on levelling up in Queen's Speech**

"It signals a clear intent for this Government to unleash Britain's potential and ensure sustainable post-pandemic, post-EU exit recovery and growth in every region of the UK."

Sir John Peace, Chairman, Midlands Engine

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## **New supply chain research headlines latest Observatory Quarterly Economic Briefing**

The audience heard insights from Prof. Janet Godsell of the Warwick Manufacturing Group and Prof. Charbel Jose Chiappetta Jabbour from the University of Lincoln.

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## Exceptional progress showcased at meeting of our Executive Board

Significant progress has been made across a number of key areas vital to the economic well-being of the Midlands.

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## More business leaders sign up for Invest Midlands

Additional speakers for the virtual conference taking place on 26 May include Mark Davies from Leicester Tigers and Sara Blair-Manning of the Nottingham Castle Trust.

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## **Transforming specialist rehabilitation services in the UK**

Our region's strengths in specialist rehabilitation are the topic of the latest report from Midlands Engine Health.

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**MORE NEWS FROM THE MIDLANDS**

## **Prof. Trevor McMillian named as new Chair of Midlands Innovation**

Vice-Chancellor of Keele University succeeds Prof. Alec Cameron of Aston University as head of partnership of eight research-intensive Midlands' universities.

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## **Derby's Museum of Making to welcome first visitors in May**

Refurbishment of the world's first modern factory was made possible with support from D2N2 LEP, Derby City Council, Arts Council England and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

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## **StokeStaffs LEP welcomes new CEO**

Anne Boyd joins Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and will drive more sustainable, innovative and inclusive business practices.

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## **New research project aims to create 'throwing' robots**

University of Lincoln initiative will help create robots capable of working alongside humans in manufacturing and distribution processes.

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## Goldman Sachs set to open office in Birmingham

Investment bank to join HSBC and Deutsche Bank with offices in the city, creating hundreds of jobs.

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## Nottingham Castle announces summer opening

Attraction to open on 21 June, following £30m of development aimed at attracting more visitors to Nottingham and boosting the local economy.

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