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### MIDLANDS MATTERS - ISSUE 18





#### Welcome to Issue 18 of Midlands Matters, our Partnership newsletter.

Uniquely, the Midlands Engine partnership is a truly collaborative, pan-regional force. A force that brings together government partners, worldleading universities and hundreds and thousands of businesses. Together, we're combining our efforts and energies for a more prosperous Midlands - a place that almost 11 million people call home. During the last few weeks, Midlands Engine colleagues and I have had the privilege to represent our partners at the Labour and Conservative Party Conferences - making sure the Midlands voice is heard and your priorities are championed.

These two important events were a chance to shine a spotlight on our phenomenal strengths - in low carbon innovation, health and science, digital connectivity, R&D and manufacturing and more. But it was also vital that we highlighted the inequalities we know exist right across our region, in terms of health, wealth and opportunity inequalities that are deepening and that will only be exacerbated by current national crises without aligned actions - long-term government investment working hand in hand with local public partners and the private sector to power economic recovery and future growth in our region.

In all our conversations with Ministers, Shadow Ministers and MPs over the last few weeks - and there have been many - we have stressed the need to level the playing field. The productivity gap in our region is over £80 billion GVA and it has grown by £10 billion since 2016. If the Midlands were enabled to perform at just the England average, the increase in output would be £80 billion more for the UK each year, on top of the almost £250 billion GVA our region already drives, annually.

The economic and social gains of investing now, in our region and its exceptional opportunities, will be powerful and lasting. And the way we will achieve this is through partnership - working together in so many innovative ways, as this and all other Midlands Matters showcase, to level up for greater economic growth, greater social mobility and greater opportunity.

With my best wishes,

Sir John Peace, Chairman, Midlands Engine



### Championing our partnership for prosperity to parliamentary leaders

Midlands Engine champions innovative and collaborative work of our partners at Labour and Conservative Party Conferences.

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### Symposium celebrates health and life sciences expertise in the Midlands

Inaugural, free event on 24 November in Birmingham to explore how excellence can be harnessed to address global healthcare challenges.



### Green Growth and future manufacturing focus of latest Quarterly Economic Briefing

New data from Observatory highlights possibilities within Midlands manufacturing that could support 165,000 jobs and provide £13.7 billion GVA boost.



# World-leading clinical research with power to change lives

New publication showcases our region's hugely significant health research and clinical trials infrastructure in numerous disease areas that support the nation's health.





# First ministerial department outside London opens

Move will see the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities recruit for new vacancies and attract further investment to Wolverhampton.



# Midlands-made driverless vehicle tested in Solihull

Solihull Council becomes first local authority to purchase Coventry-built electric autonomous shuttle which will be trialed at NEC.



### D2N2 invests £12m to create high-tech food manufacturing and distribution campus

Investment in Derby aims to deliver pioneering innovation, create thousands of jobs and transform local economy.



#### **New Chief Executive for Marches LEP**

Rachel Laver takes over from Gill Hamer, who stood down in July after six years.



### Made Smarter programme attracts 100 companies in just a few months

£1.9m scheme set to help Midlands manufacturing and engineering firms adopt cutting-edge digital technology.

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# Mental Health & Productivity Pilot praised for latest campaign

Midlands Engine-funded scheme tackles stigma around mental health in the workplace and enables employers to better support staff.



#### Leicester leads way on new National Space Strategy

Leicester research and innovation plays a major role in the UK space sector, with Space Park Leicester expected to boost economy by £750m a year and create 2,500 jobs.





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