

### November to December 2022 Highlights

The 32nd edition (November 2022) of the Regional [Economic Impact Monitor](#) was published for the year. This edition covers key topics such as the Office for Budget Responsibility economics forecasts, the Autumn Statement, public opinions of the UK public sector and government, and cost of living tracker, alongside latest trends in the labour market and the business environment.

The quarterly meetings of the **Midlands Engine Intelligence Community** (10th November) and **Research Partnership** (16th November) took place. The **Intelligence Community** focused on Midlands Engine Data Policy Asks, the EPSRC Delivery Plan, Midlands Business Forum Update and presenting outcomes of the Smart Energy deep dive in partnership with the University of Birmingham and Siemens Consulting. The **Research Partnership** included presentations on the Inclusive Transformation Projects update, the Alan Turing Institute's Network Development Award of which Keele University was a recipient of.

The Observatory started working with partners on **data policy asks**.

The outcomes of the key piece of work undertaken in partnership with the **University of Birmingham and Siemens Consulting** into a deep dive on [Smart Energy](#) were published. This included a comprehensive definition of smart energy and a forward-looking vision and potential impacts for the Midlands region.

Further developments took place on the new [Midlands Engine Intelligence Hub](#) including additional mapping and informative pop-ups for all dashboards.

The **Quarterly Economic Briefing** was set to take place in December and focus on the Annual State of the Region update, however, due to train strikes the event has now been moved to January 2023.

We published the latest annual flagship **State of the Region** report alongside a **digital version on the 13th December**.

We will also shortly be publishing the outcomes of another key piece of work, working alongside **Aston University** through our research partnership, on **trade performance across the Midlands Engine**.

### Looking Ahead - Jan. to February 2023

- Publication of the **January & February edition of the Regional Economic Impact Monitor**.
- January **Quarterly Economic Briefing** focusing on the **Annual State of the Region report** which will serve as a launch event, with presentations from key Midlands organisations and firms including **HSBC, Deloitte, SmartParc, the University of Birmingham and MakeUK**.
- Report on the role of **cities as drivers of economic growth in the Midlands** in partnership with **Centre for Cities (March 2023)**.
- In partnership with **Hydex** and the **Institute for Employment Research at Warwick University** 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 across the Midlands Engine.
- Commissioning a piece of **R&D research in the Aerospace Supply Chain** partnered with the **Midlands Aerospace Alliance** to understand the level of innovation investment across Midlands Aerospace supply chain.
- Commissioning a piece on the **digitisation of the Visitor Economy sector**.