

Agenda Item 5 - Appendix B: Midlands Engine achievements & impact – 2020/21

1. Previously reported to this committee is the shared achievements of the Partnership as noted in the Midlands Engine Review 2019 (available online at: <https://www.midlandsendengine.org/wp-content/uploads/Midlands-Engine-Review-Dec-2019.pdf>), all of which are a result of the investment made by its partner organisations. Members are aware of the direct benefits brought by partnership work to Nottinghamshire, including continued growth of data and intelligence from the Midlands Engine Observatory – now significantly expanded, advancement of transportation infrastructure investment planning such as Access to Toton and Midlands Engine Rail, accelerated work on the Midlands Engine catalysed East Midlands Development Corporation and advancing the delivery of the Midlands Engine Investment Fund, investing in Nottinghamshire firms.
2. The Partnership is solidly focused on advancing these achievements. In order to do so, Midlands Engine secured £2 million investment from Government to drive the work of the partnership this year; focused on the delivery of a series of key, pan-regional work programmes, all shaped by partners. The Midlands Engine Partnership Business Plan 2020-2021, endorsed by the Midlands Engine Operating Board (chaired by Anthony May) and approved by the Midlands Engine Executive Board in July, provides further detail on the immediate priorities partners have identified. The document can be accessed online via the following link: <https://www.midlandsendengine.org/wp-content/uploads/Midlands-Engine-Business-Plan-2020-2021.pdf>
3. In addition, work has progressed on long term programmes which also bring benefit to every part of the Midlands Engine region including:
 - Growing the Midlands Engine Economic Observatory – building on initial investment, leveraging extensive regional research capabilities to generate high value research insights, including the formative Midlands Engine Independent Economic Review and the recent regular digest, our Covid–19 Economic Impact Monitor.
 - Securing the second tranche of funding, £3.4 million, for the Midlands Engine partner-led Mental Health and Productivity pilot investment brought directly to our region by Midlands Engine to deliver interventional programmes
 - Working with the British Business Bank in the development of the next phase of the Midlands Engine Investment Fund – investing in research to help target future support to those high growth businesses who need access to finance in our region
 - Raising the profile of the Midlands – bringing forward the Midlands Forum for Growth event series, to capitalise on the inward investment collateral developed for MIPIM (Le Marché International des Professionnels de l'Immobilier - the world's leading property market)
 - Growing the voice of the region with Midlands Matters, a regular newsletter which reaches the in-box of every Midlands MP as well as many political leaders, partners and Midlands firms
 - Advancing a regional green recovery conversation with partners including industry leaders, academics and non-governmental organisation (NGO) partners including the National Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Woodland Trust and Wildlife Trusts, bringing expertise, capacity and shared investment.