

Economic Growth Board

Date	6 March 2024
Report title	Midlands Engine Presentation and Update
Portfolio Lead	Councillor Stephen Simpkins
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, Chief Executive, West Midlands Combined Authority Email: Laura.Shoaf@wmca.org.uk
Accountable Employee	Ed Cox, Executive Director Strategy, Economy & Net Zero, West Midlands Combined Authority Email: Ed.Cox@wmca.org.uk
Report has been considered by	n/a

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Economic Growth Board is recommended to:

- (1) Note the progress and activity of the Midlands Engine as set out in the attached Appendix and presentation at EGB.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to bring members of EGB up to date with the work of the Midlands Engine and allow a discussion with the Chief Executive.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Midlands Engine partnership was formed in 2017 by Midlands partners and Government to help drive growth of the region. The Midlands Engine is a pan regional partnership (one of six in the UK) and covers the West and East Midlands from Shropshire to Lincolnshire with a population of almost 11 million people.

- 2.2 The organisation brings together public, private sector and academic partners across the wider region. The East and West Midlands have very different organisational structures and the Midlands Engine has enabled joint working across the whole region.

2.3 Appendix 1 details the background of the work of the Midlands Engine, highlights recent activities and also covers the organisation's emerging priorities.

2.4 As noted, the WMCA leads or convenes on a number of these activities, but also the Midlands Engine emerging priorities converge with much of the work the WM region has been working on – eg: Cluster development and prioritisation within the Plan for Growth.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

5. Single Assurance Framework Implications

5.1 There are no direct Single Assurance Framework implications arising from this report.

6. Equalities Implications

6.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

7. Inclusive Growth Implications

7.1 There are no direct implications of this update on the Midlands Engine update; however, the work of the Midlands Engine need to be taken into account as the West Midlands works towards a more deliberate and socially purposeful model of economic growth - measured not only by how fast or aggressive it is; but also, by how well it is created and shared across the whole population and place, and by the social and environmental outcomes it realises for our people.

8. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

8.1 The Midlands Engine covers the East and West Midlands and as such the report's implications covers the wider West Midlands geography.

9. Other Implications

9.1 None.

10. Schedule of Background Papers

10.1 n/a