



The Pan Regional Partnership for the Midlands

West Midlands Combined Authority Economic Growth Board
March 2024

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- Recent Activity
- Key Priorities for 2024/25
- Issues and Risks



Purpose and Ways of Working

MIDLANDS ENGINE PARTNERSHIP

Harnessing our collective power to achieve more for our region

Advocating

Convening

Evidencing

Focusing on the strategic drivers for the Midlands Economy:

1

Increasing productivity

2

Innovating across sectors

3

Building infrastructure for growth

4

Increasing Trade & Investment

Creating strong links with our partners across key regional sectors:

Clean Growth

Advanced Manufacturing

Food & Agri-Tech

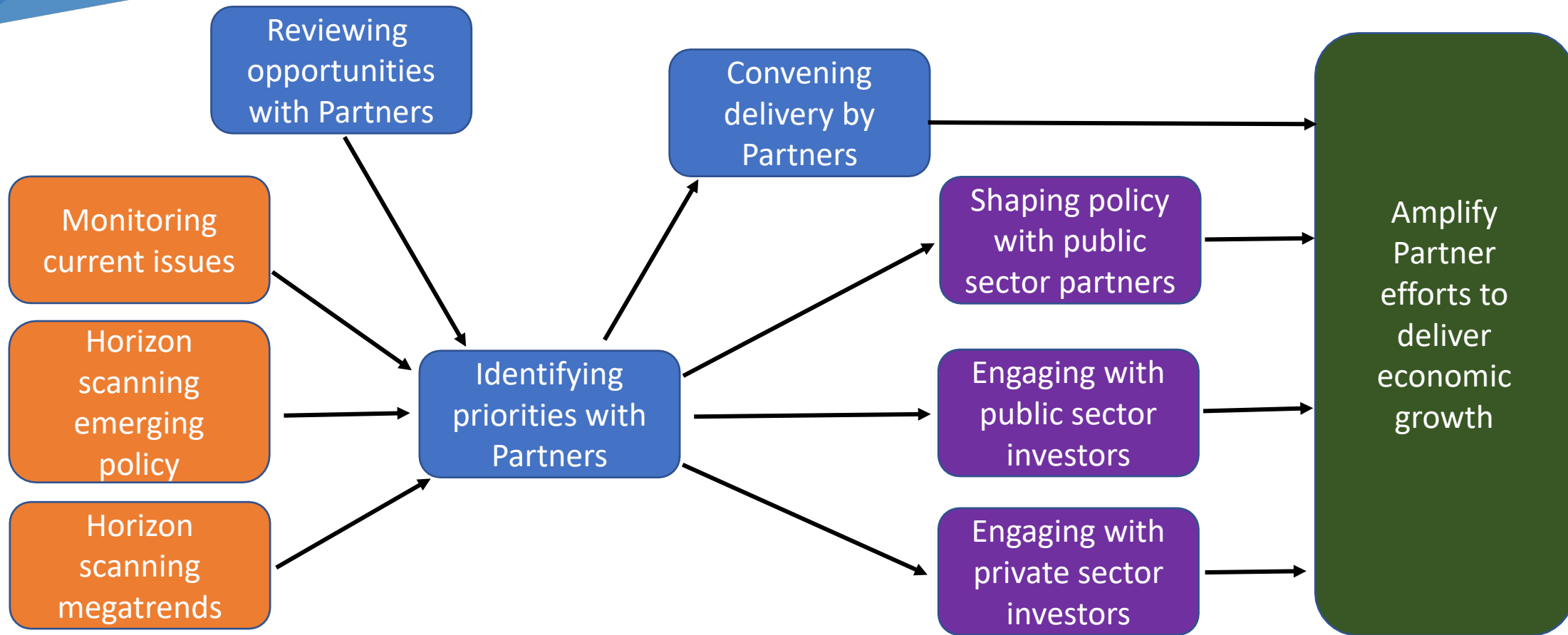
Med-Tech & Life Sciences

New Market Opportunities

MIDLANDS ENGINE

Our Value Add

- **Evidencing** – gathering insights and intelligence, providing policy-led thought leadership on key priorities, and horizon scanning for future opportunities and challenges
- **Convening** – acting as a catalyst to bring together regional organisations across sectors and geographies to collectively drive positive change
- **Advocating** – working with and between government, public sector and private sector decision makers to create the right policy and investment environment for regional growth
- **Shaping** – using our insight to help partners develop their projects and programmes



← Providing insight to help shape emerging partner opportunities



Recent Activity

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ENGINE

OBSERVATORY
Insights



Quantum technology 'New Economy' cluster snapshot

INSIGHTS

Quantum technology has the ability to transform the way we live our lives. While still emerging in application, it has the potential to enable smart cities, revolutionise healthcare systems and drive innovation in key industries including cyber security, logistics and manufacturing amongst many others in the Midlands.¹

Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Matt Hancock, has announced that the UK is developing a thriving quantum ecosystem. Published earlier this year, [The National Quantum Strategy](#) sets out a 10-year vision for the UK to be a leading quantum-enabled economy, centred around more R&D investment (£2.5bn in the next decade), training and education, and business, investment and infrastructure support.

The Midlands has already benefited from existing investment through university investment and leadership in the [UK Quantum Technologies Programme \(UKQTP\)](#). There are ample opportunities for the region to grow its academic strength in this space, but also to develop a dynamic quantum industry in the private sector - from technology-driven software and service firms, to the advanced

manufacturing supply chain in electronics and photonics. Crucially this will be the simultaneous development of the right skills and infrastructure to support a flourishing quantum cluster in the Midlands.

There is currently limited data available for accurately quantifying quantum technology activity in the UK and its regions. However, this document attempts to pull together available information about quantum technology in the Midlands, produced by Midlands Engine Observatory. Due to the nascent nature of data in this sector and the cluster's relative nascency, the findings should, therefore, be taken with some caution.

¹ For the purposes of this document, the 'Midlands' is defined as the 16 Local Authorities that form the Midlands Engine following geographic, slightly different to traditional local authority and then Midlands region. It is geographically:



Megatrends in the Midlands



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EXPLORING THE INVESTMENT
POTENTIAL OF MIDLANDS CLUSTERS

OVERVIEW REPORT

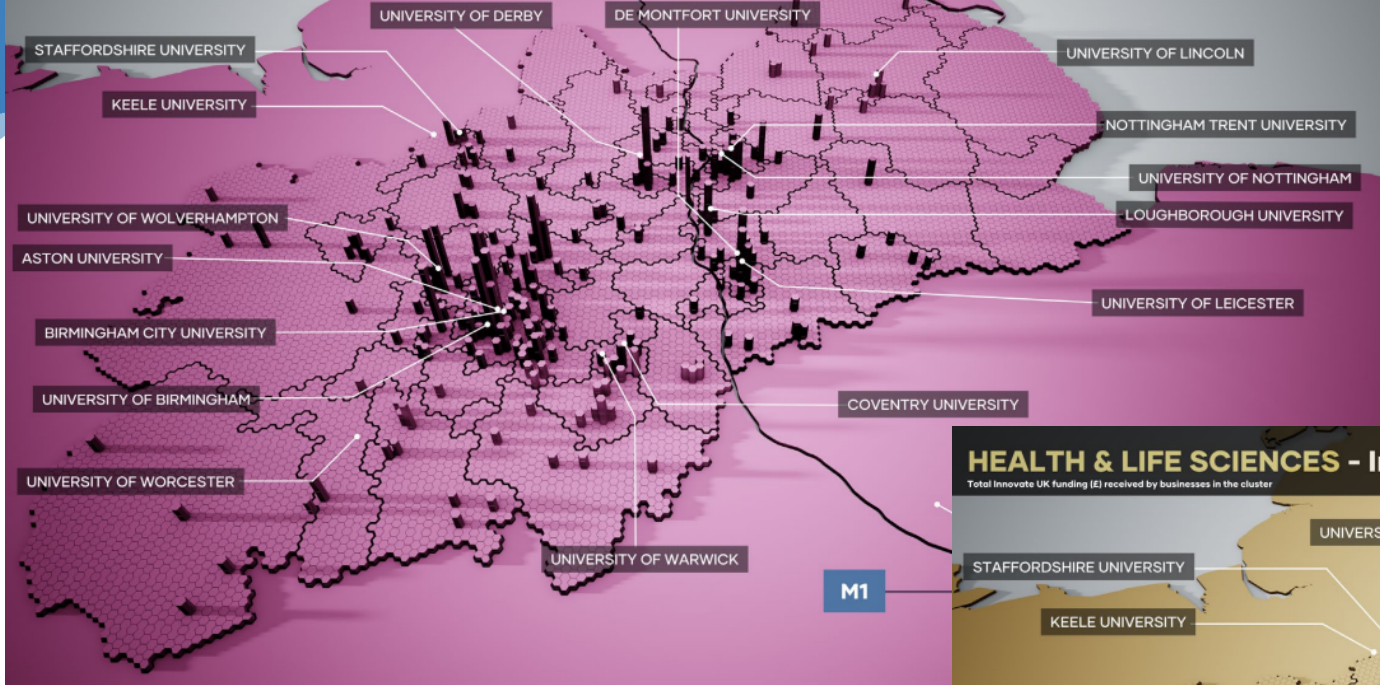
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EXPLORING THE
INVESTMENT
POTENTIAL OF
MIDLANDS CLUSTERS

HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES - Innovation - Businesses

Count of innovative companies based on The Data City innovation score

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HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES - Innovation - Funding

Total Innovate UK funding (£) received by businesses in the cluster

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midlandsengineintelligencehub.org

Home - Intelligence Hub

Home ▾ Macro economy Green growth Transport & infrastructure Digital Labour market & skills Global & investment Innovation Health & population Sectors & supply chain

lands Cluster Snapshot | NEW: Quantum Technologies Cluster Snapshot | NEW: Green & Hydrogen Jobs in the Midlands Report | NEW: AI Midlands Cluster Snapshot | NEW: Quantum Technologies Cluste

MIDLANDS ENGINE OBSERVATORY INTELLIGENCE HUB

The latest pan-regional data, research & expert insights from the Midlands Engine Observatory

A regional evidence base providing accessible, up-to-date intelligence for Midlands Engine partners, businesses and Government

About the hub How to use it

Areas of focus

The Midlands Economic Summit 2024



**MIDLANDS
ENGINE**

**STATE OF THE REGION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
2023**

▶ DEC 2023



FOOD WHITE PAPER

Leading the transformation
of the UK food system from the Midlands

▶ FEB 2024

Invest in UK R&D
Universities and the Creative and Digital Industries in the Midlands

Prospectus

GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

Invest in UK R&D
Universities and zero carbon energy in the Midlands

Prospectus

GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

Invest in UK R&D
Universities and health and life sciences in the Midlands

Prospectus

GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

Invest in UK R&D
Universities and agritech in the Midlands

Prospectus

GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

Invest in UK R&D
Universities and transport technology in the Midlands

Prospectus

GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND



Developing the Midlands Forest Network

The Midlands Engine Area

£11.1bn

natural capital value

16%

of England's ancient woodland

462m

visitors annually to open greenspace

7.4%

woodland cover



Midlands Engine Investment Fund II

£400m to support the growth of smaller businesses in the Midlands

Launching in 2024



Key Priorities for 2024/25

Evidencing

- Energy Security White Paper
- Cluster Deep Dives
- Note: Wider research programme being finalised with the RIPP Group

Convening

- Midlands Economic Summit 2024
- UKREIIF 2024
- The King's Awards
- State of the Region 2024

Advocating

- Universities as Drivers of Trade and Investment
- Asset Backed Vehicle for the Midlands
- Midlands Green Bonds
- Ukraine Reconstruction Programme

Issues and Risks

Issues and Risks

- Political uncertainty
- Government finances
- Duplication and overlap with partner work



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