

Midlands Engine APPG

Tuesday 19 January 2021, 14:00-15:00

Attendees:

Darren Henry MP, MP for Broxtowe (Co-Chair)
Lord Ravensdale (Co-Chair)
Pauline Latham MP, MP for Mid-Derbyshire
Andrew Bridgen MP, MP for North-West Leicestershire
Alex Norris MP, MP for Nottingham North
Mark Pawsey MP, MP for Rugby
Ruth Edwards MP, MP for Rushcliffe
Ben Bradley MP, MP for Mansfield
Luke Evans MP, MP for Bosworth
Jane Hunt MP, MP for Loughborough
Lilian Greenwood MP, MP for Nottingham South
Martin Vickers MP, MP for Cleethorpes
Kate Griffiths MP, MP for Burton and Uttoxeter
Jane Stevenson MP, MP for Wolverhampton North East
Heather Wheeler MP, MP for South Derbyshire
Lord Taylor of Holbeach
Baroness Verma of Leicester
Baroness Hooper of Liverpool and St James's
Office of Maggie Throup MP
Office of Victoria Atkins MP
Office of Jane Hunt MP
Office of Luke Evans MP
Office of Alicia Kearns MP
Office of Darren Henry MP

Guests:

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government,
Midlands Engine Ministerial Champion, and MP for Newark
Sir John Peace, Midlands Engine Chairman

Secretariat

Tom Day, Midlands Engine

Minutes:

- 1) Welcome and Introduction
 - a. Darren Henry MP welcomed Parliamentarians, introduced the invited guests, and reminded members of the purpose of the APPG, agreed as follows:
 - i. "To champion the Midlands Engine in the UK Parliament, ensure that investment in the Midlands is prioritised by the UK Government and work to level up the Midlands economy in order to improve quality of life for communities in every part of the region".
 - b. Lord Ravensdale then outlined the work done by the APPG since the first full meeting in September, including:
 - i. Engaging directly with Government Departments

- ii. Highlighting issues in Parliament
 - iii. Setting up a number of subgroups, for example on transport and energy
- 2) Midlands Engine End of Year Review
 - a. Midlands Engine played their End of Year Review video, updating Parliamentarians on the activities, programmes and projects of the Midlands Engine in 2020.
- 3) Secretary of State Address
 - a. Secretary of State Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP thanked Co-Chairs for the invitation and Midlands Engine Partnership for their work in 2020.
 - b. Secretary of State also set out his ambitions for the Midlands Engine in 2021 and key areas of focus.
 - c. Secretary of State then took questions and comments, including:
 - i. Luke Evans MP commenting on the scale of projects which Midlands Engine focuses on.
 - ii. Lord Taylor of Holbeach affirming the importance of cross-regional links, particularly in Lincolnshire.
 - iii. Ben Bradley MP requested an update on Government progress with the Development Corporation project.
 - iv. Martin Vickers MP suggested closer business links with Immingham Ports and Scunthorpe steelworks into the Midlands Engine.
 - v. Baroness Verma highlighted the important role of start-ups in the Midlands business environment and ensuring they get the support they need.
 - vi. Jane Stevenson MP highlighted the need for pan-regional working and support for that in the West Midlands.
 - d. Darren Henry MP thanked Secretary of State for his comments and responses, and invited members to view the Midlands Engine APPG website (<https://midlandsendine.inparliament.uk/>).
- 4) Midlands UK Forum for Growth
 - a. Darren Henry MP invited Sir John Peace, Midlands Engine Chairman, to address the meeting.
 - b. Sir John Peace spoke about the Midlands UK Forum for Growth 2020, which put forward £17.6 billion of investment opportunities in the Midlands to international investors.
 - c. Sir John Peace presented a short highlights video from the event and offered briefings to interested MPs.
- 5) Formal business of the meeting
 - a. Darren Henry MP formally notified the Group that Nicola Richards MP had stepped down from her position as a Vice Chair of the APPG.
 - b. The Group agreed to nominate Lord Taylor of Holbeach, Jane Stevenson MP, Martin Vickers MP and Baroness Burt of Solihull as Vice Chairs. All were confirmed unanimously.
- 6) Next meeting
 - a. Darren Henry MP confirmed that the next meetings of the APPG will be publicised on the website (<https://midlandsendine.inparliament.uk/>) and by email circulation.
 - b. Darren Henry MP thanked Parliamentarians for their attendance and contribution.
- 7) Meeting closed at 15:00