





Government **Director for Communications Meets with Industry** Leaders



Alex Aiken, Executive Director for Government Communications, visited the region to discuss the Northern Powerhouse with invited business leaders. This meeting was organised by the North East Branch of the Institute of Directors (IoD) and held in The Fitzgerald Suite at the Materials Processing Institute.

Directors from over 20 chemical related and other businesses were invited including:

- SABIC UK Petrochemicals
- BOC
- Chemoxy
- Nortech
- · Huntsman Polyurethanes Ltd
- NEPIC
- · Materials Processing Institute

Discussions centred on the Northern Powerhouse, with focus on how local businesses can benefit. The companies and business organisations represented gave a strong message back to Government, highlighting the skills and expertise in the region and the important role the region has to play to support the overall success of the Northern Powerhouse initiative.

In his summary, Alex Aiken was clear that the discussions had demonstrated that this region has a major role to play and he would be taking this message back to share and discuss with colleagues at government departments including BIS, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

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Graham Robb, IoD North East Chairman commented, "The venue for this meeting was ideal. It is in the heart of the unique industrial landscape

of Teesside and attracted guests who were interested in the opportunities offered by the Northern Powerhouse. The facilities are modern and accessible and the catering was excellent and perfectly suited to the needs of the event."

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