

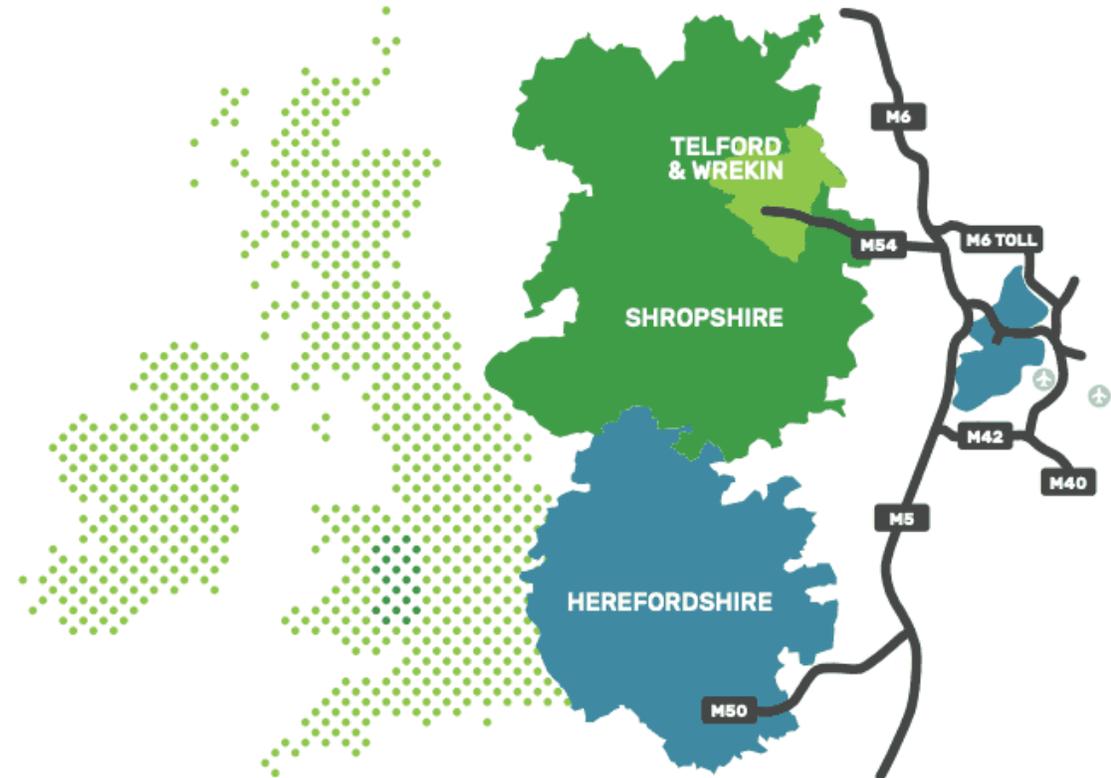
# **BUSINESS & FINANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 9 Dec 2020**

## **The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)**

- **Mandy Thorn MBE DL - Chair**
- **Gill Hamer - Chief Executive**
- **Ilia Bowles - Director of Corporate Services**

## OVERVIEW OF THE MARCHES LEP

- We cover **2,300 sq. miles** and are home to **684,300 people** and **30,775 businesses**
- **89.7% micro businesses** (<10 employees)
- Key growth points of **Shrewsbury, Telford, Hereford**
- Importance of **market towns**
- Excellent **quality of life**



# MARCHES LEP GOVERNANCE

- Led by **Chair Mandy Thorn MBE DL**, the LEP Board includes the **Leaders of the three Local Authorities** of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin
- Also on the LEP Board are the **chairs of Herefordshire Business Board, Shropshire Business Board and Telford Business Board**
- In February 2019 the Marches LEP became a **company limited by guarantee**
- Governance and decision making arrangements laid out in our **Accountability and Assurance Framework**
- Detailed work programme in our **Delivery Plan** and **formal review by government**
- Regular **consultation** with and **scrutiny** by Local Authorities

# MARCHES LEP CURRENT PRIORITIES

## Delivery of projects funded under **Growth Deal (Local Growth Fund)**

- **Ni-Park** – enterprise and innovation park linked to Harper Adams University
- **Stronger Communities Regeneration**
- Supporting University of Wolverhampton's **Marches Centre of Excellence in Health, Allied Health & Social Care**
- Investment in **college facilities** to increase apprenticeships on offer

## Delivery of projects funded under **Getting Building Fund** – new economic stimulus programme launched in 2020

- **Stronger Communities - New College, Wellington** and surrounding site with Wrekin Housing Group
- **Tackling Fuel Poverty through Zero Carbon Innovation** – Wrekin Housing Group

# MARCHES LEP CURRENT PRIORITIES

- Delivery of the **Marches Growth Hub** to support new and existing businesses, including information on business support services, skills, virtual events and 1:1 support  
[www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk](http://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk)
- **Making the case to government on local opportunities** to support inclusive growth and improve productivity through our **Local Industrial Strategy** development
- **Leading the Marches Skills Advisory Panel**
- Delivery of the **Marches Energy Strategy**
- Oversight of impact of **Marches Investment Fund** loans
- Alignment with **Telford's Town Fund** initiatives

## RESPONDING TO COVID 19

- Led an **Economic Impact Group** of key stakeholders and undertook business survey
- Articulated the **local business voice** to **senior civil servants, Ministers and across the LEP Network**, focussing on the impact on the **rural economy** and our **micro business base**
- **Daily updates** of information on [www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk](http://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk) and a move to virtual events and online support
- Awarding **£404k** to support the **visitor economy sector** through projects led by Telford & Wrekin Council and Telford Business Board
- **Marches Economic Recovery Summit** on 15 Oct 2020 to prioritise actions to support economic recovery, including **digital infrastructure, skills/training programmes and business support, including access to finance**

# NEXT STEPS TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC RECOVERY

- Identifying **local opportunities** in the Government's recently announced **Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution**
- Understand implications of **Comprehensive Spending Review**
- **Ongoing working with key partners**, e.g. West Midlands Combined Authority, Midlands Engine, Midlands Connect, Growing Mid Wales Partnership, LEP network **to influence and inform**
- Delivery of business support through the **Marches Growth Hub**
- **Championing our local growth opportunities** connected with:
  - high-tech, energy-efficient manufacturing and engineering
  - modern and environmentally sustainable food production, packaging and distribution through agri-tech innovation
  - excellence in cyber security and resilience

# ANY QUESTIONS?

Keep in touch with us at:

- Download our latest **Annual Report** [here](#)
- Watch a short **video** providing an overview of our work [here](#)
- Sign up for our **newsletter** through our website [www.marcheslep.org.uk](http://www.marcheslep.org.uk)
- Follow us on **Twitter** [@marcheslep](https://twitter.com/marcheslep) and on **LinkedIn** [www.linkedin.com/company/marches-local-enterprise-partnership](http://www.linkedin.com/company/marches-local-enterprise-partnership)