

## Marches LEP Investment in Herefordshire Infrastructure, Skills and Innovation

### Local Growth Deal Funds 1 & 2

Hereford City Centre Transport Package	£16m
Broadband (Fastershire)	£1.674m
South Wye Transport Package	£27m
Herefordshire Group Training	£81k
Herefordshire and Ludlow College	£194.9k
Herefordshire and Ludlow College and HGTA Joint project	£450k
<b>Total Local Growth Deal Funds 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>= £45,399,850</b>

### Local Growth Deal Fund 3

NMiTE	£8m
Hereford Centre for Cyber Security	£2,820m
Herefordshire and Ludlow College	£1,059m
<b>Total Growth Deal 3</b>	<b>= £11,879,000</b>

## Growth Deal 1,2 and 3 – Capital Infrastructure Projects Overview (Including investment made in the Hereford Enterprise Zone)

### South Wye (Growth Deal 1)

A new Southern Link Road (SLR) linking the A49(T) with the A465 and B4349 to the south of the city, integrated with a set of measures to improve travel opportunities and conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users in the South Wye area.

The project is currently on pause pending a decision from Herefordshire Council on its major infrastructure projects but if it proceeds it is expected to create 1,000 jobs, deliver 1,000 homes and 3.6km of road.

The South Wye Project sits within the Marches LEP Growth Deal Programme but was approved as a Department for Transport (DfT) retained scheme - the funding coming into the LEP from the Department for Transport (DfT). To date £3.8m of the £27,000,000 budget has been drawn down, with the remaining balance scheduled across 2019/20 and 2020/21. As part of the £3.8m Herefordshire Council received an advance of £1,697,607 of Local Growth Funding (LGF) funds.

### Hereford City Centre Transport Package (Growth Deal 1)

Investment through LGF is enabling the development of a new link road between the A465 and A49, an integrated transport hub at Hereford Railway Station, public realm improvements on key routes into the city centre and new and improved cycling infrastructure.

The aim of the project is to improve the provision of housing in the County, providing a more sustainable and pedestrian friendly city centre and supporting the delivery of long-term economic benefits and sustainable growth for Herefordshire. The project is due to complete at the end of this year and will deliver 800 homes, along with other economic outcomes for the city.

### Broadband Fastershire (Growth Deal 2)

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from

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The Fastershire project has helped 35,000 premises across Herefordshire access superfast broadband.

### **Hereford Enterprise Zone**

The Hereford Enterprise Zone (HEZ) was designated as the Enterprise Zone for the Marches LEP in 2011.

Herefordshire Council is the principal landowner and is investing in the necessary infrastructure to open up the site and make plots ready for sale and development. As at the end of 2018/19 over 44 acres of land had been sold or was committed to development, 46,000 sqm of workspace has been developed or committed, representing £48m of investment value, with 38 businesses moving into the Zone. On occupation these businesses will be employing 744 people, with a further 1,056 in their growth plans. In 2019/20 objectives are to sell or develop a further 14 acres, triggering 13,000 sqm of workspace development, with 15 more businesses moving onto the Zone.

In addition, a top priority in 2019/20 is to ensure the efficient implementation of two keynote projects supported by the Marches LEP, which will be under construction in the year – The Shell Store Incubation Centre and the Centre for Cyber Security

As part of the HEZ Deal Herefordshire Council provides £100,000 from Business rate uplift towards the LEP Team Costs.

### **Cyber Quarter – Midlands Centre for Cyber Security (Growth Deal 3)**

The HEZ is assisting the University of Wolverhampton in the development of a Midlands Centre for Cyber Security (MCCS) on the South Magazine which was awarded £2.82m from the LGF 3.

Work on the MCCS commenced in June 2019 following an agreement to create a joint venture company between the University of Wolverhampton and Herefordshire Council to build and operate it.

The new centre will offer high quality research facilities, as well as providing office space for cyber based businesses and advanced training facilities designed specifically to tackle threats in cyberspace. The University is focused on forming strong, collaborative relationships with key companies to engage with cyber research, training programmes and enterprise development. The strategy is to bring together collective expertise in a centre of excellence with partners both in the UK and internationally. The centre will offer a range of specialist facilities including innovation and workspace for small and start-up businesses, alongside specialist laboratory space, training rooms and consultancy support.

The project is expected to complete in 2025 and, as a result of LGF, the centre is expected to create 185 jobs from the investment, along with a range of other economic and skills-based outcomes.

The Government awarded funding to Worcestershire, the Marches, Gloucestershire and Swindon and Wiltshire LEPs to undertake a Science and Innovation Audit to develop and understand better their asset base to develop and grow this sector. This study is being used to inform cyber related activity within the LIS.

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## Shell Store

Funding for the refurbishment of the Shell Store on the Zone's North Magazine site has been secured comprising an ERDF grant, a £2.49m interest free loan from the Marches LEP and a contribution from Herefordshire Council. The Centre will provide incubator and grow on space and an area for the new University to provide project space for business/student interaction. The centre is due to be completed in spring 2020.

## NMiTE (Growth Deal 3)

The Marches LEP Board has agreed to provide grant funding for the first phase of teaching and administration facilities for the delivery of NMiTE: the new independent, not for profit, world class teaching university which will address the shortage of skilled graduate engineers in the Marches and British businesses in advanced manufacturing, agri-engineering, data, defence, resources security, and sustainable/smart living technology sectors.

Phase 1 (£2.3m) – Following NMiTE securing a 50-year lease from the Department for Education on the former Robert Owen School building on Blackfriars Street in Hereford the LEP have now awarded £2.3m to the project. This will allow the buildings to be improved, adapted and equipped to provide 3205m<sup>2</sup> of teaching and learning space at the Blackfriars site and will also allow 270 learners to be taught on the site, 37 jobs to be created and 75 companies to be supported by March 2022. The LEP grant is due to lever £3,133,750 of private sector match and generate £6,480,000 of GVA into the local economy.

Phase 2 (£5.7m) – NMiTE Board are currently developing proposals to be presented at the September 2019 LEP Board meeting, outlining how the funding will be spent on achieving the following deliverables:

Private Sector Capital Match	£7,766,250
Jobs Created	195
Area of new/improved training floorspace (m <sup>2</sup> )	3,935
New Learners (Student Enrolled)	810
Undergraduates	750
GVA added Annually	£27,520,000
Companies Supported	375

## Marches Growth Hub - Business Support

Since April 2015, £1.07 million has been allocated to the set up costs, development and updating of [www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk](http://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk) website and as a contribution to the operating costs of the Marches Growth Hub sites in Shrewsbury, Telford and Herefordshire. The Marches Growth Hub provides access to advice and business support for pre-start, start up and growing businesses, including specialist support services funded through EU programmes. The Marches LEP contribution, from BEIS funding, also supports the coordination, promotion and delivery of a programme of events, support clinics and business seminars.

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