

# GENERAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 Dec 2020

the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

Mandy Thorn MBE DL - **Chair**

Gill Hamer - **Chief Executive**

Elia Bowles - **Director of Corporate Services**

Tim Yair - **Regional Senior Energy Projects Officer**

# OVERVIEW OF THE MARCHES LEP

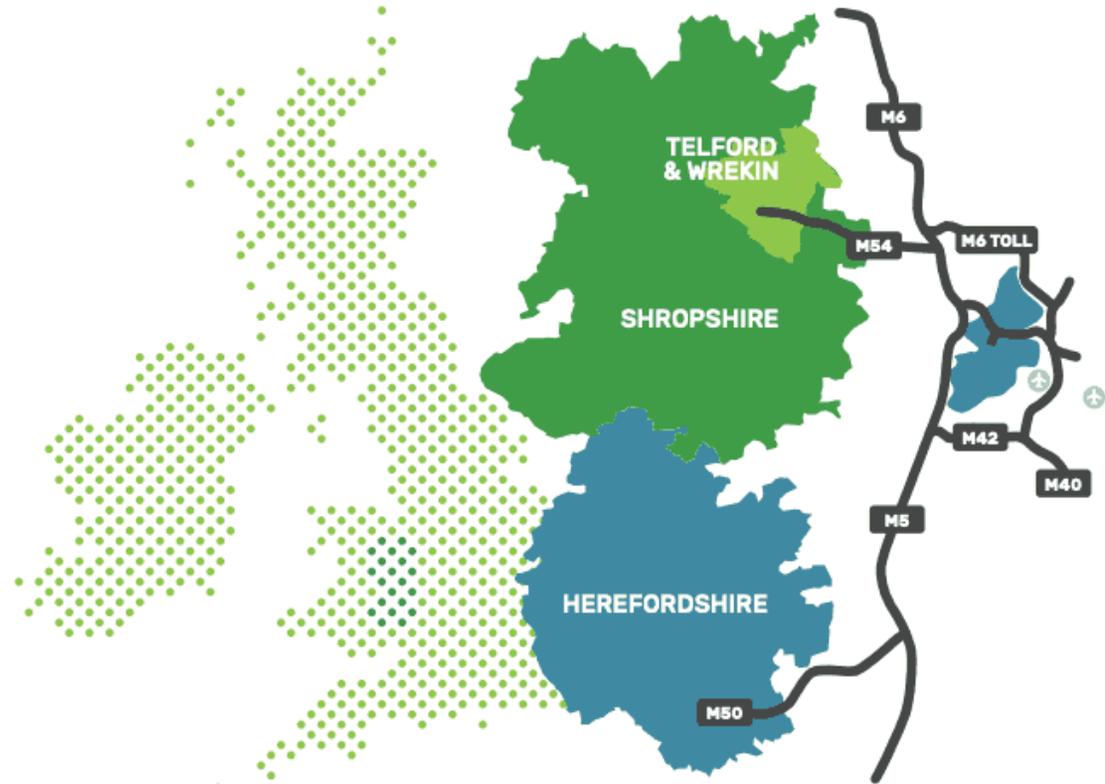
We cover **2,300 sq. miles** and are home to **684,300 people** and **30,775 businesses**

**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)

- **Cyber Quarter - Midlands Centre for Cyber Security** research, training and business centre
- **NMITE** new engineering institute
- Investment in **broadband**
- Investment in **college and training providers' facilities** to increase apprenticeships on offer

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

- **Hereford City Centre Improvement**
- **Integrated Construction Wetlands**
- **Skylon Park Campus Development (NMITE)**

# MARCHES LEP CURRENT PRIORITIES

- Oversight of **Skylon park development** including the transformation of the **Shell Store** supported by a loan from the **Marches Investment Fund**
- Delivery of the **Marches Energy Strategy**
- **Leading the Marches Skills Advisory Panel**
- 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

## 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 **£444k** to support the **visiting economy sector** through a project by Herefordshire Council and Herefordshire 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)