

### Report on Delivery Plan Achievements in 2019/20

The 2019/20 Marches LEP Delivery Plan can be found at <a href="https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/download/transparency/Delivery-Plan-2019-2020-final.pdf">https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/download/transparency/Delivery-Plan-2019-2020-final.pdf</a>			
	Section	Actions Agreed	Actions Completed and Progress
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Summary and Strategic Objectives</b>		
<b>2.4</b>	Key Actions for 2019/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will update our evidence base to ensure that we can demonstrate a clear understanding of the structure of our local economy. This will consolidate the work already completed in developing our Strategic Economic Plan and will improve our sectoral analysis.</li> <li>Additional research into a tourism strategy, a digital strategy and opportunities for innovative healthcare development has been commissioned on behalf of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership and will be completed by the end of June 2019.</li> <li>Consultation with businesses will sense check our updated evidence base and collate qualitative feedback from the private sector. Facilitated workshops will be held between May and September 2019 to gather information from businesses in the following sectors:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced manufacturing and engineering</li> <li>Food and drink/agri-tech</li> <li>Environmental technologies</li> <li>Cyber security and resilience.</li> </ul> </li> <li>We will establish a Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) by September 2019 to support the development of the people strand of our Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) and consider how investment in curriculum development can support it.</li> <li>We will hold consultation events, supported by the three business boards, Federation of Small Business, Chambers of Commerce, National Farmers Union and other stakeholders, to consolidate our LIS consultation.</li> <li>We will continue to liaise with government departments in the drafting our LIS to enable it to be submitted to government for formal sign-off in quarter 4 of 2019/20.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitor Economy study and Digital Strategy completed and available on Marches LEP website <a href="https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/about/data-research/">https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/about/data-research/</a>. Innovative Health research awaiting final sign off.</li> <li>To support Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) development, a wide range of discussions took place with Board members and consultation events were held, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A LIS workshop for public sector partners and Board Members held on 11 April 2019 in Ludlow.</li> <li>Sector/cluster-based consultation events to gather qualitative information from businesses on productivity challenges and opportunities. These have included:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automotive/advanced manufacturing cluster event held on 4 June 2019 at Telford Innovation Centre.</li> <li>Agri tech/agri food &amp; drink (meat and dairy opportunities in the north Marches) held at Harper Adams University on 5 June 2019.</li> <li>Agri tech/agri food &amp; drink (soft fruit and horticulture opportunities in the south Marches) held in Ledbury on 20 June 2019 and also attended by Worcestershire LEP.</li> <li>Environmental Technologies (renewable energy opportunities) on 25 July 2019 as part of the launch of the Marches LEP Energy Strategy in Ludlow.</li> <li>Business consultation events held with the support of Business Boards (Herefordshire event 17 October 2019 and Shropshire and Telford &amp; Wrekin on 18 October 2019). Attended by Chambers, NFU, HE, FE and other stakeholders.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>Following consultation and discussion at Board meetings, the draft LIS <a href="https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/download/marches_local_industrial_strategy/Marches-Local-Industrial-Strategy-Final-draft-20.12.19.pdf">https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/download/marches_local_industrial_strategy/Marches-Local-Industrial-Strategy-Final-draft-20.12.19.pdf</a> and evidence base <a href="https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/download/marches_local_industrial_strategy/The-Marches-LIS-Evidence-Base-Final-version-December-2019.pdf">https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/download/marches_local_industrial_strategy/The-Marches-LIS-Evidence-Base-Final-version-December-2019.pdf</a> were submitted to government in December 2019 and formal feedback received from government analysts in January 2020. Awaiting guidance on next steps.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
<b>3.2</b>	Key Actions for 2019/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Articles of Association for Marches LEP Ltd and the Accountability and Assurance Framework to be agreed by the LEP Board on 21 May 2019.</li> <li>A Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Marches LEP Ltd and Shropshire Council to be agreed and put in place by July 2019 which will include details of the costs the LEP is paying for each of the back-office services being provided by Shropshire Council.</li> <li>Two new Board members to be recruited in May /June 2019 and join the LEP Board in July 2019.</li> <li>New LEP Chair to be recruited and join the LEP Board by September 2019.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed at Board meeting on 21 May 2019.</li> <li>Due to a lack of capacity in the team the Service Level Agreement (SLA) has yet to be put in place and the Team is still operating under the terms of the former memorandum of understanding. An interim is being recruited to support this work during June and July 2020 and the aim is to get the new SLA agreed by September 2020.</li> <li>Sara Williams (manufacturing representative) and Ruth Shepherd (construction representative) were recruited as Board Members in May 2019 and joined the Board in July 2019. In addition, Dr Catherine Baxter (HE representative) and Christine Snell (food and drink/agri-tech representative) were recruited in Spring 2020 and joined the board at the 24 March 2020 meeting.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The three Local Authorities to invite the LEP to attend scrutiny panels in September/October 2019 and March/April 2020.</li> <li>2018/19 statement of accounts to be agreed by July 2019.</li> <li>Annual General Meeting (AGM) date to be agreed and promoted by 28 February 2020 to stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandy Thorn MBE DL was selected as the new Marches LEP Chair in September 2019 following an open recruitment exercise throughout the summer of 2019 and became a legal Director of the Marches LEP Ltd at the Board Meeting on 7 November 2019.</li> <li>Scrutiny panels attended (Shropshire Council Place Overview Committee on 5 September 2019, Herefordshire General Scrutiny Committee on 22 October 2019 and Telford &amp; Wrekin Business &amp; Finance Scrutiny committee on 11 February 2020). Planned attendance at Shropshire Council Place Overview Committee on 26 March 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19.</li> <li>2018/2019 statement of accounts presented by s151 Officer and approved by Board on 23 July 2019</li> <li>AGM date rescheduled to allow presentation of 2019/2020 statement of accounts and public meetings planned for June 2020 (to be rescheduled due to Covid-19).</li> <li>Annual Performance Review (APR) – 2019/20 mid-year review meeting took place on 18 September 2019. APR meeting took place on 23 January 2020 and, after some delay, the outcomes of the review under the three themes were received on 3 April 2020: Governance: Good; Delivery: Good; Strategic Impact: Requirements met.</li> <li>Annual Audit on Marches LEP undertaken in 2019 on Governance and Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme Processes and Procedures. Four levels of Assurance ranging from Good, Reasonable, Limited and Unsatisfactory were possible. The LEP moved up two Assurance Levels from 'Limited' to 'Good'.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Delivery</b>		
<b>4.1</b>	Skills		
<b>4.1.1</b>		The Careers and Enterprise Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) <a href="https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/">https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/</a> programme delivery continued with a new Enterprise Coordinator recruited to support activity within Telford &amp; Wrekin following the resignation of the original Enterprise Coordinator.</li> <li>Promotion of national CEC campaigns undertaken, e.g. the 'Give an hour' campaign which began in April 2019 to raise the profile of opportunities for business volunteers to deliver careers activities in schools or college in line with the Marches LEP priority sectors.</li> <li>Regular performance reviews held with CEC regional team and opportunities for attracting additional funding and resources identified and being pursued.</li> </ul>
<b>4.1.2</b>		National Apprenticeship Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of apprenticeships and T Levels to employers and learners in the Marches LEP region with the support of the National Apprenticeship Service and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), e.g. promotion of National Apprenticeship Week, the Herefordshire Skills Show on 3 July 2019, the Shropshire All About Apprenticeships event on 5 February 2020 and the Telford Apprenticeship, Employment and Skills Show on 5 March 2020.</li> <li>Regular meetings with National Apprenticeships Service team from ESFA and a Smaller Employer Engagement Team representative attends SAP meetings.</li> </ul>
<b>4.1.3</b>		Skills Advisory Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose, membership and Terms of Reference of the Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) were discussed and approved at the Board meeting on 23 July 2019 (and updated at 26 November 2019 meeting).</li> <li>The new Marches Skills Advisory Panel replaced the Marches LEP Skills Board in October 2019, ahead of the Department for Education (DFE) target date.</li> <li>Funding of £75k secured from DFE to support the development of an evidence-based approach to develop and deliver local post-16 skills provision that better meets local labour market needs.</li> <li>Procurement of Black Country Consortium to work with the Marches LEP and develop an evidence base in line with DFE requirements.</li> <li>Progress made with the establishment of the SAP and data collection formally reviewed by DFE in August 2019 and January 2020 with positive feedback received.</li> </ul>
<b>4.1.4</b>		Institute of Technology (IoT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Marches LEP was included in a successful IoT bid led by Dudley College of Technology in 2018/2019. By 2025 the IoT aspires to support over 2,000 new learners following higher level technical programmes with an emphasis on Apprenticeships. The £32.5m project, will focus on advanced manufacturing, modern construction methodologies and medical engineering provision. The Marches element is still to be confirmed.</li> </ul>

4.1.5		European Social Fund (ESF)	See section 4.6.
4.1.6		Growth Deal – Skills Capital Projects	See section 5.
4.1.7		Sector-based Skills Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to support the development of a new digital skills platform continued.</li> <li>• Maintained overview of the Construction Marches Construction Ready Partnership and other work with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) through regular meetings. Attended Shropshire Construction Training Group for sector specific input and research and the group has nominated a representative as a member of the SAP.</li> <li>• Care sector development work with the Shaw Trust, Skills for Care and Shropshire Partners in Care initiated.</li> <li>• Growth Deal Skills Capital call aligned with sector priorities in Strategic Economic Plan and national policy changes.</li> <li>• Skills considerations included within the Visitor Economy Strategy and the Digital Strategy.</li> </ul>
4.2	Infrastructure		
4.2.1		Strategic Transport Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalising Phase two of the Joint Appraisal Framework.</li> </ul>
4.2.2		Prioritised Road Investment Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The promotion of transport interventions within the Marches (e.g. Councils, Local Enterprise Partnership, Highways England and Midlands Connect).</li> </ul>
4.2.3		Network Readiness for Autonomous and Ultra-low Emission Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing strategic level changes in forecast network capacity.</li> <li>• Continued to lobby and support scheme promoters in accessing funding.</li> <li>• Worked with the Department for Transport, Highways England, Transport for Wales and Midlands Connect in driving forward progress on the LEP’s transport investment programme</li> </ul>
4.2.4		Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marches LEP Energy Strategy launched at event in Ludlow on 25 July 2019 following the employment of the Marches Regional Senior Energy Projects Officer in May 2019.</li> <li>• Marches Energy Strategy Steering Group established in October 2019 to oversee delivery of the Strategy.</li> <li>• Project pipeline developed and strategic engagement activity underway.</li> <li>• An update was presented to the Board on 24 March 2020.</li> </ul>
4.2.5		Digital Connectivity (5G/Broadband)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEP funding sponsored the development of the Digital Strategy.</li> <li>• Delivery of Broadband projects supported by Growth Deal funding.</li> </ul>
4.2.6		Continuing Engagement with Midlands Connect & Welsh Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority transport projects being led by the Transport Officers Group and supported by Midlands Connect.</li> <li>• See also 6.1.</li> </ul>
4.3	Marches Investment Fund	During 2019/20, the Marches LEP will identify additional resources to support the development of projects and to consider additional opportunities for the use of MIF funding in line with local priorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repayments continued under the loans arranged with Dicentra and Harper Adams University in line with contractual agreements and MIF funded activity supported the development of the Shell Store site under the agreement with Herefordshire Council.</li> <li>• Proposals developed to allocate £1.58m of funding to support tourism and strategic businesses affected by flooding and Covid-19 using interest payments, loan repayments and Telford Land Deal income.</li> <li>• Agreed at the Marches LEP Board meeting on 24 March 2020 that consideration should be given to using the unallocated MIF funding to cover any overallocation of Growth Deal and/or reserve projects.</li> </ul>
4.4	Hereford Enterprise Zone	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As at the end of 2019/20, 51.9 acres of land sold or committed to development, 55,900 sqm of workspace developed or committed, representing £48m of investment value, with 43 businesses moving onto the Zone. These were employing 818 people on occupation, with a further 1,094 in their growth plans.</li> <li>• Construction of the Marches LEP supported Shell Store Incubation Centre and Cyber Quarter - the Midlands Centre for Cyber Security developments both underway.</li> <li>• Design and pre-planning application work associated with the development of three buildings on Skylon Park for New Model Institute for Technology and Engineering (the Higher Education institution) commenced.</li> </ul>

4.5	Marches Growth Hub	Delivery of business support information, advice and support through website, National Business Support Helpline and physical hubs in partnership with local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-ordination and delivery of 2019/2020 core contract in line with Department for Business, Energy &amp; Industrial Strategy (BEIS) requirements through partnership working with the three local authority led physical Marches Growth Hub teams to achieve an increase in business engagement and the take up of more in-depth support.</li> <li>• Review and updating of website <a href="http://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk">www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk</a> content to ensure support (including events calendar) remains accurate and current and the co-ordination of services offered by the National Business Support Helpline.</li> <li>• 2018/2019 year-end report and audit report approved by BEIS in August 2019 and funding plan for 2020/2021 core contract (£205k) approved by BEIS.</li> <li>• Additional funding secured in 2019/20 – in addition to the core contract allocation of £205k, BEIS awarded £32k to support the delivery of EU Exit readiness business advice and £33k via the West Midlands Cluster to support EU Exit readiness business engagement. There was also an additional £140k allocation to the West Midlands Cluster to support the collation of EU Exit business intelligence. As a result of this, a West Midlands report was produced and launched in March 2020. A link to the report can be found here <a href="https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/download/Reports/reports/Final-WM-Brexit-Report.pdf">https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/download/Reports/reports/Final-WM-Brexit-Report.pdf</a>.</li> <li>• £10m Growth Challenge Campaign launched to promote the role and purpose of the Marches Growth Hub and signpost to grant funding and specialist support available under European funded projects and the Midlands Engine Investment Fund.</li> <li>• Board received an update report on Marches Growth Hub activity on 24 September 2019.</li> <li>• Liaison with the Department for International Trade to promote export, inward investment and other international trade opportunities.</li> <li>• A2F strategy launched following approval by Board at 24 September 2019 and virtual working group established.</li> <li>• Business support considerations included within the Visitor Economy Strategy and the Digital Strategy.</li> </ul>
4.6	European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF)	<p>The Marches LEP, with the support of the Marches European Regional Development Fund and European Structural Fund Technical Assistance Officers, will continue to maximise the drawdown and impact of ESIF funds during 2019/20. This will be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Running funding calls and tendering opportunities</li> <li>• Supporting the development of robust and well considered applications</li> <li>• Promoting funds and highlighting successful projects</li> <li>• Supporting contract holders and providers to maximise their performance and to align with other business support, innovation and skills programmes</li> <li>• Continue discussions in order to develop plans for the commitment and use of any remaining allocations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To date, the delivery of ESIF within the Marches has been successful with a high commitment rate over the three funds, leading towards a projected total spend of £120m over the programme’s lifetime.</li> <li>• There were clear benefits to LEP areas receiving individual funding allocations, compared to previous “regional” programmes, because it helped to stimulate discussion between LEP partners and regional organisations, such as universities and other West Midlands local authorities. This led towards a diverse range of projects in the Marches spread across several delivery partners.</li> <li>• The Marches Growth Hub has been an important conduit for ensuring that the ESIF-funded activity relating to businesses support and grants has been accessed by local businesses.</li> <li>• The Marches LEP needs to ensure that Government recognises its achievements in delivering the programme in respect of the development of the proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund.</li> </ul>
4.7	Telford Land Deal		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The delivery of the Telford Land Deal programme continued in 2019/20 and achieved gross sale income of £5.9million, 375 new jobs, 144 new homes and 6,327sqm employment floorspace.</li> <li>• Key developments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Business units, grow on space at Leasows Court</li> <li>○ Additional manufacturing facilities for Craemer</li> <li>○ Industrial building for Rosewood Pet Products</li> <li>○ Housing developments at Apley, Snedshill and Priorslee</li> <li>○ <b>Newport Innovation Park (NI-Park)</b> started in 2019. This is an agri-tech research and innovation hub with major links to Harper Adams University which has received Growth Deal investment from the Marches LEP and investment from Telford &amp; Wrekin Council. It aims to support the creation of 950 jobs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• An update was presented to the Board on 27 January 2020.</li> </ul>
4.8	Monitoring and Evaluation	Each Funding/Growth Programme has developed its own monitoring and evaluation processes, helping to record specific activities and successes as well as identifying potential risks and any lessons learnt.	See 5.4.

4.9	Projected Outputs	Outputs	Actual achieved to 2018/19	Forecast in 2019/20	Actuals achieved in 2019/20
		<b>Marches Investment Fund (MIF)</b>	n/a	n/a	Site under development
		Shell Store incubation centre			
		<b>Marches Growth Hub (MGH)</b>			
		Individuals that receive 'light touch' triage information and/or signposting support excluding website traffic	2018/19 4,475 individuals	2% increase 4,565 individuals	Increase in engagement to 12,301 individuals
		Businesses that receive medium and high intensity information, diagnostic and brokerage support	2018/19 357 businesses	2% increase 364 businesses	108 achieved up to 30 September 2019. Year-end data will be available in June 2020
		Number of businesses referred to a finance and/or funding programme (combined figure to medium and high intensity interventions only)	2018/19 178 businesses referred	2% increase 182 businesses	71 achieved up to 30 September 2019. Year-end data will be available in June 2020
		<b>Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC)</b>			
		Schools and colleges engaged with the programme	57	3 additional (60)	5 additional (62)
		CEC Enterprise Coordinators in post	3	0.5 additional	3
		<b>Skills Engagement</b>			
		Increase attendance at the Apprenticeship and Skills show:	3,700	100 additional	Event held on 5 March 2020 – attendance affected by Covid-19. Delegate attendance was expected to be 4,048. Actual attendance was 2,854.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delegates</li> <li>• Schools and Colleges</li> <li>• Businesses</li> </ul>	35	3 additional	31 schools and Colleges pre-booked with a total of 1500 students to attend. 29 schools attended with a total of 474 students. 54 exhibitors on the day and 7 cancellations.
			60	5 additional	
		<b>Telford Land Deal</b>			
		Housing units completed	264	285	144 new homes
		Commercial floorspace completed	48,542m <sup>2</sup>	12,530m <sup>2</sup>	36,327m <sup>2</sup>
		Jobs accommodated/created	1,049	650	375 new jobs
		<b>Hereford Enterprise Zone</b>			
		Land area sold (acres)	43.9	14	8 - total now 51.9
		Workspace area developed/ committed to development	45,800	13,000	10,100 - total now 55,900
		New businesses moved and operating on site	38	15	5 - total now 43

<b>5.0</b>	<b>Local Growth Fund</b>							
<b>5.2</b>	Projects						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A table of Projects outlining contractual commitments for 2019/20 was included in the delivery plan. This demonstrated that the Programme would be able to spend its Growth Deal allocation in line with the profile set by Government. The value of projects within the table totalled £6,078,821.33.</li> <li>The final spend position for 2019/20 was £6,815,915.51 - reflecting an overspend position, highlighting the LEP's ability to drawn down spend. This contributed to the LEP receiving a 'Good' for Delivery in our Annual Performance Review (see section 3.2).</li> </ul>	
<b>5.3</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Marches has a Performance Management Framework. This outlines how we work with our projects to ensure compliance with the conditions of Grant, whilst also identifying any risks, thus enabling us to work with our Project Promotors to find solutions.</li> </ul>	
<b>5.4</b>	Outputs Delivered in 2019/20							
		<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Actuals up to 2018/19</b>	<b>Forecast in 2019/20</b>	<b>Actuals in 2019/20 (up to Quarter 3 Figures*)</b>	<b>Current Forecast 20/21</b>	<b>Current Forecast 21/25</b>	<b>Total Forecast</b>
		Jobs created / safeguarded	2,430	1,457	607	1,326	8,237	13,450
		Housing Units Completed	1,697	1,831	1,831	1,277	4,025	8,830
		Length of newly built road (km)	0	0	0	4	0	5
		Additional employment land (ha)	34	12	10.13	8	12	66
		Commercial floor space	0	7,700	280	11,900	42,000	61,600
		Students enrolled	0	50	0	100	120	270
		GVA (£)	0	0	0	£12,120,000	£50,294,904	£62,414,904
		Homes with access to new/improved fibre optic provision	61,151	2,431	0	857		64,439
		Apprenticeships	259	891	164	1,026	TBC	2,176
		Local authority/public sector match (£)	£12,576,807	£40,704,441	£9,973,635	£2,820,522	£8,783,000	£64,884,770
		Private Sector match (£)	£0	£4,633,350	£9,368,375	£15,317,461	£0	£19,950,811
		<p><i>*As a consequence of Covid-19, projects are struggling to provide the LEP with the necessary data to substantiate output numbers (backing evidence, signed and verified). As a result, the Quarter 4 2019/20 Government return has been put back to Q1 2020/21.</i></p>						
<b>5.5</b>	Project Pipeline and Development Funding Pot	Financial support for project development and feasibility studies supported from LEP reserves following Board approval.						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Marches LEP granted £239,000 to support 11 projects in their feasibility stages. This has enabled them to get to a stage where they can successfully bid for further funding to make the projects and outputs a reality.</li> </ul>

6.0	Strategic Activity		
6.1	Partnership Development	<p>Our engagement with Welsh partners will continue in 2019/20. The Growing Mid Wales partnership's new report into Strategic Economic Priorities for the Mid Wales Region and the emerging Growth Deal for Mid Wales will inform programme development and a Growth Deal bid in 2019. It is anticipated that this will include transport projects to implement the joint Freight Strategy that was launched in 2018, a market town support programme and consideration of opportunities to deliver on the post 16 and higher-level skills agenda. We will look for opportunities to support and collaborate with Welsh partners on these areas of shared interest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Marches LEP continued to liaise with the Growing Mid Wales (GMW) partnership to develop understanding of the emerging Mid Wales Growth Deal and to identify potential opportunities for joint working. See also information on House of Commons event below.</li> <li>• The Marches LEP has sought to develop a relationship with the Welsh Office to better understand the proposed Marches Growth Deal which was detailed in the 2019 Conservative manifesto as '<i>a transformative Marches Growth Deal, focusing on cross-border infrastructure which supports the local and cross-border economy</i>'.</li> <li>• Partnership working with neighbouring LEPs has continued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A shared vision to support the development of the cyber security sector with Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Swindon &amp; Wiltshire is being developed under the auspices of 'Cyber Valley' and discussions have been held with BEIS, the Home Office and The Department for Digital, Culture, Media &amp; Sport (DCMS) to raise awareness of assets and initiatives.</li> <li>○ To better understand the needs of our food and drink sector, Worcestershire LEP attended the LIS consultation session held in Ledbury.</li> <li>○ Marches Growth Hub worked with WM LEPs as part of the WM Cluster for the delivery of some business support services.</li> <li>○ The Marches LEP contributes to and supports the work programme of the West Midland LEPs to share information on common issues and develop joint approaches.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Marches LEP has continued to financially support the work of the Midlands Engine, has contributed to its data and intelligence work and been supported by Sir John Peace and the executive in promoting local priorities.</li> <li>• To share best practice and understand areas for development, the Marches LEP participated in a Peer Review session in March 2020 with D2N2 LEP. This has enabled a better understanding of some operating practices that could be adopted by the Marches LEP, e.g. the potential capitalisation of LGF to fund team resources.</li> </ul>
6.2	Business and Community Consultation	<p>Regular meetings with Shropshire and Telford &amp; Wrekin MPs will continue through the current structure which is supported by Shropshire Council, and opportunities to meet with Herefordshire MPs will be sought to highlight LEP investment across the county</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An event was held at the House of Commons on 8 May 2019 to formally launch the Strategic Economic Plan and to highlight cross border issues and joint transport initiatives being taken forward with Welsh partners. This was attended by 6/7 of the Marches MPs, and Mid and North Wales MPs.</li> <li>• A meeting was held with available Shropshire and Telford &amp; Wrekin MPs at Shirehall, Shrewsbury on 18 October 2019. The LEP Chair had meetings with The Rt Hon Jesse Norman MP in January and March 2020 and meetings were scheduled with Bill Wiggin MP and Daniel Kawczynski MP on 20 March 2020 (postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions). Regular correspondence has taken place with Marches MPs on our LIS development, the launch of the Annual Report and Annual Economic Review and the role of the Marches Growth Hub in supporting businesses planning for EU exit.</li> </ul>
6.3	Marketing and Communications	<p>Be Bold Media Ltd will produce an updated communications plan for 2019/20 by the end of May 2019. This will continue to build and consolidate the local, national and international profile of the Marches LEP area and its priorities as outlined in the SEP and this delivery plan. As well as ongoing updating of the website and an increasing social media presence, the Marches LEP produces a 6-weekly newsletter. These communication channels will enable the promotion of key messages in 2019/20, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The recruitment of the new Marches LEP Chair</li> <li>• Liaison with government and senior officials through the House of Commons event, SEP launch and LEP Network activities</li> <li>• Annual Report launch in September 2019</li> <li>• Local Industrial Strategy consultation event in Autumn 2019</li> <li>• The Energy Strategy launch in Autumn 2019.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forward plans received and reviewed at quarterly meetings with Be Bold Media Ltd (held on 27 June 2019, 25 October 2019 and 13 January 2020).</li> <li>• Priority communication messages discussed at regular MLEP Chair and Deputy Chair meetings.</li> <li>• Communications impact report presented to Board members with papers for 26 November 2019 meeting</li> <li>• Board agreement on 27 January 2020 to extend PR and Communications contract with Be Bold Media Ltd to cover financial year 2020/21 in line with procurement process carried out in 2018.</li> <li>• Regular website reviews held to assess compliance of <a href="http://www.marcheslep.org.uk">www.marcheslep.org.uk</a> with The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government /Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy requirements and review content. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Completed – brought forward to July 2019.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>