



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Cities and Local Growth Unit
1st Floor Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DP

Gill Hamer
Chief Executive

Marches LEP

9 November 2020

By email:

Dear Gill,

Local Growth Fund 2020-21 final payment

I am writing to confirm that we will now be releasing the final one third payment of The Marches 2020-21 Local Growth Fund allocation.

We are pleased to confirm that the additional assurance offered by your officials to demonstrate The Marches ability to contractually commit within year and spend within year has given us sufficient confidence to release the final one third of the FY20/2LGF allocation, as we have done with other LEPs.

I can confirm that the final third of your LGF will be paid by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government ('MHCLG') to Shropshire Council ('the Council') as the Accountable Body for The Marches

A breakdown of FY2020-21 payments can be found in the table below which includes the payment made in May 2020 (2/3 of LGF) and the payment being made in October 2020 (1/3 LGF);

May 2020 Payment (2/3)	October Payment 2020 (1/3)	Total payments
£8,417,462	£4,208,731	£12,626,193

Funding Requirements

Use of funding should be used to fulfil the following requirements:

1. To support the Growth Deal agreed between the Government and the LEP and will be used to secure the outcomes set out in the Growth Deal. Within that we expect you and your Accountable Body to use the freedom and flexibilities that you have to manage your capital budgets between programmes.
2. To be deployed in accordance with decisions made through the local assurance framework agreed between the LEP and the Accountable Body. This must be compliant with the standards outlined in the National Local Growth Assurance Framework.
3. We expect you to track progress against agreed core metrics and outcomes, in line with the national monitoring and evaluation framework.

4. That the LEP and Accountable Body will communicate the on-going outcomes and outputs of their Growth Deals, following the branding guidance to ensure that local people understand how Government money is being spent.

Councils and Combined Authorities are reminded that, as accountable bodies for their LEPs, they are responsible for ensuring that expenditure is spent in accordance with all applicable legal requirements. This includes, for example, state aid and public procurement law. Councils and Combined Authorities are reminded that any development decisions for specific proposals must go through the normal planning process and be guided by local plans, taking into account all material considerations. Councils and Combined Authorities will be subject to their normal internal and external audit controls.

The LEP and Accountable Body are also reminded of their responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and should have regard to these requirements when apportioning LGF funding.

Skills Capital

As with all Growth Deals it is our expectation that you will fund the projects agreed with the Government at the time of the deal, in line with your proposal. Whilst we recognise there may be legitimate reasons not to proceed with some projects, it is particularly important, if this is the case, that awards originally for skills capital continue to be spent on new or extended skills projects.

All LEPs should follow the recommendations of their Post 16 area reviews when making future skills capital investment decisions, including supporting any capital requirements identified as part of the area review implementation. Where necessary, we would expect priority to be given to supporting the area reviews outcomes using the full scope of Local Growth funding to support the implementation of the area reviews.

I am copying this letter to the Section 151/73 officer for your Accountable Body and to your Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead.

Yours,

Steven Greenwood

Deputy Director- Funding Delivery, Cities and Local Growth Unit