

<b>Minutes of the Marches LEP Ltd Emergency Board Meeting (redacted)</b> <b>24 February 2021 at 2.00pm</b> <b>Meeting held via Zoom</b> <b>(Company Number: 11822614)</b>		
<b>Present:</b>		
<b>Mandy Thorn MBE DL</b>	MT	Chair, Marches LEP Board
<b>Sonia Roberts</b>	SR	Deputy Chair Marches LEP Board; Equality and Diversity Champion; CEO Landau Limited
<b>Frank Myers MBE</b>	FM	Herefordshire Business Board Chair
<b>Paul Hinkins</b>	PH	Telford Business Board Chair
<b>Beth Heath</b>	BH	Shropshire Business Board Chair
<b>Cllr Ellie Chowns</b>	EC	Cabinet Member for Environment, Economy and Skills, Herefordshire Council
<b>Cllr Peter Nutting</b>	PN	Leader, Shropshire Council
<b>Cllr David Wright</b>	DW	Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing, Transport and Infrastructure, Telford & Wrekin Council
<b>Paul Kalinauckas</b>	PK	Access to Finance Champion
<b>James Staniforth</b>	JS	Skills Advisory Panel Chair; Principal and CEO of the Shrewsbury Colleges Group
<b>Sara Williams</b>	SW	Marketing Manager - Northern Europe, Protolabs
<b>Christine Snell</b>	CS	Business Partner, AJ & CI Snell
<b>In Attendance:</b>		
<b>James Walton</b>	JW	Section 151 Officer, Shropshire Council
<b>Richard Ball</b>	RB	Director for Economy and Place, Herefordshire Council
<b>Mark Barrow</b>	MB	Executive Director for Place, Shropshire Council
<b>Katherine Kynaston</b>	KK	Director Housing Economy & Infrastructure, Telford & Wrekin Council
<b>Nick Francis</b>	ME	Deputy Head, West Midlands & South West, Cities & Local Growth Unit, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (part of meeting)
<b>Clare Hannah</b>	CH	Deputy Area Lead, West Midlands & South West, Cities & Local Growth Unit, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
<b>Tim Smith</b>	TS	Assistant Director - Commercial Services (Project Executive Tannery)
<b>Gill Hamer</b>	GH	Chief Executive, Marches LEP
<b>Ilia Bowles</b>	IB	Director of Corporate Services, Marches LEP
<b>Kathryn Jones</b>	KJ	Partnership Manager, Marches LEP
<b>Nick Alamanos</b>	NA	Programme Manager, Marches LEP
<b>Lisa Ashby</b>	LA	Project Officer, Marches LEP
<b>Ennis Vingoe</b>	EV	Executive Assistant, Marches LEP
<b>Wayne Redge</b>	WR	Office Administrator, Marches LEP
<b>ITEM</b>		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>1. Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b> MT welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular BH who was welcomed to her first Board meeting. Apologies were received from Andrew Manning Cox, Ruth Shepherd and Catherine Baxter. Cllr Ellie Chowns was attending the meeting in Cllr David Hitchiner's stead. MT noted that the meeting was being recorded to aid the	

	<p>production of the minutes. The meeting was not being held in public due to the confidential nature of the agenda items.</p> <p><b>2. Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>The Chair reminded members to complete the form that had been distributed for any specific Declarations of Interest for this meeting.</p> <p>JS – declared an interest in Item 3 as Principal of Shrewsbury Colleges Group.</p> <p>PH - declared an interest in Item 3 as Chair of Telford College Board of Governors.</p> <p>PN - declared an interest in Items 3 and 4 as Leader of Shropshire Council.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that members with a conflict of interest for a specific agenda item would not be entitled to vote on that particular item.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Governance</b></p> <p><b>Resolution - appointment of new private sector director</b></p> <p>To confirm the appointment of Beth Heath, in her role as Chair of Shropshire Business Board as a Director of Marches LEP Ltd.</p> <p><b>The Board confirmed the appointment of Beth Heath as a Director of Marches LEP Ltd (Unanimous).</b></p>	EV
3.	<p><b>Confidential Item</b></p> <p><b>Marches Centre of Manufacturing and Technology (MCMT) project</b></p> <p>The Board discussed a proposed contract variation of the Marches LEP contract with MCMT and an extension to the delivery time to March 2022. The variation and extension would allow the project to deliver the original outputs.</p> <p><b>The Board approved the implementation of a contract variation of the LEP contract with MCMT (Unanimous)</b></p> <p><b>The Board approved an extension to the outputs' delivery time to March 2022 (Unanimous)</b></p> <p><b>The Board agreed that the LEP would facilitate meetings between MCMT and other providers and that MCMT should be asked to seek opportunities to meaningfully collaborate with the FE College Principals from the Marches on their plans for training provision in Telford and Shrewsbury (Unanimous)</b></p>	
4.	<p><b>Confidential Item</b></p> <p><b>a. Getting Building Fund</b></p> <p>The Board noted the current position relating to the Getting Building Fund Programme.</p> <p>The Board discussed a proposal to utilise Marches Investment Fund (MIF) as a cashflow facility, ensuring the LEP was able to meet its contractual commitments with projects, therefore not compromising delivery.</p> <p><b>The Board approved the utilisation of the Marches Investment Fund as a cashflow facility for the Getting Building Fund, ensuring the LEP was able to meet its contractual commitments during the 2020/21 Financial Year (Unanimous)</b></p> <p><b>b. Local Growth Fund (LGF)</b></p> <p><b>1) LGF Current Position</b></p> <p>The Board noted the current position relating to the Local Growth Fund Programme.</p>	

	<p><b>2) Project Change Request</b> The Board discussed a project change request which would enable the project to respond to changing market demands.</p> <p><b>The Board approved the change request (11 For; 1 Abstention)</b></p> <p><b>3) Project Revised Proposal</b> The Board discussed a revised project proposal, reprofiling and reordering the existing funding. Two options were presented. Concerns were expressed in relation to additionality and value for money.</p> <p><b>The LEP Board rejected both options (Option 1: 1 For, 7 Against, 3 Abstentions; Option 2: 4 For, 5 Against, 2 Abstentions)</b></p> <p>The project promoter confirmed that they would be able to deliver the original contracted outputs for the project.</p> <p>Members discussed the potential LGF outturn position in the light of the rejection of the revised proposal. The decision taken would see the LEP in an overall overspend position of nearly £90k (based on current project estimates), enabling the programme to utilise the loan repayments from the MIF.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b> Nil</p>	
6.	<p><b>Close</b> The meeting closed at 4.00pm.</p>	
	<p><b>Next Meeting of the Board of The Marches LEP Limited: Tuesday 23 March 2021</b></p>	

Signed (electronically):

Mandy Thorn MBE DL, Chair Marches LEP

Date: 23 March 2021